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'The next few days - some would say the next 48 hours - are likely to prove whether Lebanon is to survive as a state'

Beirut battle rages as Lebanon drifts to civil war

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Peaks and troughs
From a relatively high point in the mid-1970s, membership has declined sharply. Is it beginning to recover?

Across the

Only three

sport really

microlights

of 100

from London

clubs.

Into the red?
Business News' latest "Pink Book" shows a deterioration in Britain's trading position since its past 11 years.

Up and away

Airlines are winning more orders for aircraft. A Special Report shows how operators have double their business.

On the green

The continuing success of Sunningdale before Europe's top two greens, Faldo and Ballesteros, to be number one.

A million mourn for Aquino

More than a million Filipinos turned out yesterday for the funeral of Benigno Aquino, the assassinated opposition leader. Crowds surged for about four hours along a 15-mile route to the garlanded coffin.

Cut-throat cover

Britain's big insurance companies are "losing millions of pounds of business to foreign hands, which, according to one hit company, are changing theiristic rates."

Male midwives

The last legal barriers against men training as midwives collapsed today with the repeal of the relevant section of the Sex Discrimination Act.

Ovett fails

Steve Ovett failed last night to break the three-day old world record of Sydney Moger's 1,500 metres in Koblenz, West Germany, when he won silver in 3 min 32.93 sec.

Bomb theories

South African politics, once held against Sir Philip Green, may be behind twin bomb attacks in London.

Hijack ends

Five hijackers holding Air France jetliner since Sunday have surrendered at Tehran in a promise of asylum.

An well back to LIFE...

FT chief decides to step down

By Derek Palm

The chief executive of the Financial Times, Mr Alan Hare, is to step down on October 1. But he will remain chairman of the newspaper until next spring, when he will reach retirement age of 65.

Taking over as chief executive will be Mr Frank Barlow, aged 53. He is general manager of Westminster Press which, like the Financial Times, is controlled by the S. Pearson and Son conglomerate, which has diverse interests including merchant banking and engineering.

Mr Hare's decision to step down comes less than a month after the ending of a damaging ten-week stoppage at the Financial Times. It cost the newspaper more than £1m in lost revenue after taking into account costs saved, such as unpaid wages.

Mr Hare said he had decided to end his commitment in two stages to make the change over as smooth as possible. Last night's announcement, he said, would have been made a month earlier had the strike not taken place.

Mr Hare will not be severing completely his connections with the Pearson group. He was appointed president of Chateau Latour, the French vineyard controlled by the group, in June. His other appointments include directorships of the Reuters newsagency and of the Economic.

Other Financial Times appointments from October 1 are: Mr Richard McClean, managing director (marketing), to be deputy chief executive; and Mr David Palmer, deputy editor, to be general manager. Mr Richard Ambler, the newspaper's chief New York correspondent, will become deputy editor.

Gunmen hijack Romanian cargo ship

Nicosia (AP) - Unknown gunmen commandeered a Romanian cargo ship in the northern Lebanese port city of Tripoli. Port authorities in Cyprus said they did not have the name of the ship, and that there was no information as to where it was heading.

Tripoli is only about 100 miles south east of the southern Cyprus port of Limassol, and has been the scene of frequent fighting in recent weeks between pro and anti-Syrian Lebanese Muslim groups.



Mr Hare: planned earlier announcement

Israel in chaos over Begin succession

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Israel was plunged into political chaos yesterday as initial attempts to find an agreed successor to Mr Menachem Begin, the retiring Likud Prime Minister, failed and the Labour opposition launched a series of unofficial contacts in the hope of being asked to form the next government.

Managers of the Likud coalition parties acknowledged that they were involved in a race against time to find a new leader before Mr Begin submits his letter of resignation (which is already written) to President Herzog, who then has to call on one Knesset member to try to form a new administration.

Only if the Likud has a new leader supported by a viable majority can Labour, the largest single party in the 120-seat Parliament, be prevented from trying to form its own left-wing coalition.

It is believed that Mr Begin will resign formally by the Jewish New Year next Wednesday at the latest.

Within a few hours of Mr Begin making his decision to step down completely his connections with the Pearson group. He was appointed president of Chateau Latour, the French vineyard controlled by the group, in June.

His other appointments include directorships of the Reuters newsagency and of the Economic.

Yesterday afternoon, it was

announced that at a private meeting whose chairman was Mr Yacov Meridor, Mr Begin's closest confidant and his predecessor as commander of the Irgun Jewish terror group, that the two contestants were both insistent on submitting their candidacies to a meeting tonight of the 900-strong central committee of the party. Its decision is expected to be final.

Although Mr Shamir, aged 53, a former Knesset Speaker and one of the Cabinet's leading hawks who opposed the Camp David treaty has emerged as the clear favourite among seven of the eight Herut ministers in the present government, this does not ensure his success. Mr Levy had all along been pressing for a showdown in the central committee where he is said to have greater grassroots support.

The fact that the two contenders were unable to reach a private deal before the crucial meeting has encouraged those in the Labour Party who believe they may have an outside chance of tempting away sufficient coalition deputies to be able to command the necessary 61 seats in the Knesset.

At present they have 50 and yesterday began putting feelers to the small parties.

As expected Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister and the chief architect of the Lebanon war has quickly emerged as an influential power behind the scenes.

Bravery award for Navy diver

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent
books and cryptographic equipment

A Royal Navy deep-sea diver has been awarded the Queen's gallantry medal for his part in "possibly the most dangerous task ever undertaken by a Royal Navy diving team".

He is Petty Officer Michael Harrison, aged 33, who has been in the Navy for 18 years.

The medal was won while diver was recovering classified documents and equipment from ships sunk during the Falklands campaign last year. The nature of the material recovered has not been specified but it is thought to have included top secret code

Officers freed then seized in Harare

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

independence, dealt at length with the officers' allegations that they had been intimidated, assaulted and in four cases subjected to electric shock torture to get them to make confessions.

The evidence of prosecution

witnesses did not come close to establishing the guilt of the accused and the state's case rested purely on the confessions, he said.

Although the police denied misrepresentation, the officers' stories corroborated each other and had the ring of truth, he added. "The psychological effects of lengthy interrogation, incommunicado incarceration and torture suffered at the hands of the police drive an accused person to hopelessness," he said.

However, even without this evidence he would have had to rule the confessions inadmissible because they were obtained after the officers had clearly been denied access to lawyers - a right enshrined in the legal code and the constitution.

When he announced the officers' acquittal there was prolonged applause and foot-stamping from the public gallery. The officers shook hands and embraced, some visibly moved.

In the euphoria of the moment elated relatives and friends spilled over from the public gallery into the court where they mingled and embraced the officers.

A beaming Mr Harry Ognall QC, who conducted the officers' defence, said: "I am delighted that six extremely honourable men have been exonerated."

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British Gas to shed thousands of jobs

By Jonathan Davis

Financial Correspondent

The State-owned British Gas corporation is planning to shed between 10,000 and 20,000 of its 101,000 employees by the end of the 1980s to try to improve efficiency.

Some of the jobs are likely to be lost through compulsory redundancies - a possibility that British Gas admitted yesterday it had succeeded in having deleted from a recent independent report on the industry's efficiency by Deloitte, Haskins and Sell, the accountants.

The 250-page report, jointly commissioned by the corporation and the Department of Energy, was published last week. It hit the headlines with its apparently startling conclusion that the corporation was still undercharging its customers despite record profits of more than £100m a year.

Both the department and the corporation last night confirmed reports in the specialist magazine, Accountancy Age, that a number of paragraphs had been left out of the published version on the grounds that they were considered matters of commercial confidence.

Among them was a paragraph which said that British Gas was considering whether its 12 regions would have to announce compulsory redundancies this year. "It is important that such redundancies are

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Cost-cutting by Thomson signals price war with package holiday operators

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Sharpening next summer of package holidays prices were wallalled yesterday by Thomson Holidays, Britain's biggest tour operator. Thomson is not only increasing the number of holidays on offer by a quarter but clipping many prices below this summer's levels.

"Summer sun" holidays, the big part of its programme, will be cut in price by an average 2 per cent while the growing sector of self-catering holidays will have prices down by an average of 6 per cent.

On top of the other incentives now common in the travel trade, such as no-surcharge guarantees, Thomson will also absorb airport taxes usually £10 a holiday. Other tour operators are expected to follow suit.

The result for holidaymakers is that on a £250 holiday savings will range between £5 and £15, although some savings will be greater.

But the increasing price competition could result in some tour operators going out of business. Mr John MacNeill, managing director of Thomson Holidays, agreed with other forecasts which have suggested that smaller tour operators will come under increasing pressure. But highly specialized operators should be at much less risk, he added.

By the end of the summer

Thomson prices will be a special challenge to the Birmingham-based Horizon Travel, the third largest tour operator. Horizon, which like Thomson has aimed more for the quality market, has been losing market share this summer because it did not follow Thomson in bringing our a lower-priced mid-season brochure although it did say for this winter and now looks likely to produce a lower-priced brochure for next summer.

By staggering the printing of its holiday brochures through the winter Thomson is retaining the option to bring in new brochures half way through the booking season with even lower prices.

"We are committed to the best possible holidays at the keenest prices. If we have to react to the competition then we have the facility to do this," Mr MacNeill said.

Thomson traditionally is first with the next season's brochures and its nearest rival, Intasun Leisure, together with operators like Cosmos, have come in later with lower prices. For this past summer Thomson reprinted its brochures, largely matching opposition prices, and as a result swelled its market share from 18 per cent in 1982 to 21 per cent this year. It has done the same with this winter's main holiday programme.

By the end of the summer

Pontin plans comeback at 77

By Derek Pain

At an age when most people settle for comfortable retirement, Sir Fred Pontin, the former holiday camp tycoon, is preparing for a stock market comeback and, as a sideline, developing a West Country hotel chain.

At the Grosvenor Hotel in London yesterday, he presided at a shareholders' meeting of Kunick Holdings, a fashion group that fell on hard times and now, as a leisure business, is the vehicle for Sir Fred's stock market return. After the meeting he travelled to Brixham, Devon, to complete his latest hotel purchase.

Sir Fred, who will be 77 next month, is at least for the time being, keeping his two business careers apart.

Kunick Holdings, which is to be renamed the National Leisure Group, has more than 600 shareholders. Just six of them turned up yesterday to vote through the latest acquisition, the takeover of Scarborough Zoo and Marineland, an amusement centre at the Yorkshire resort.

Since Sir Fred joined forces earlier this year with Mr Donald Robinson, aged 46, Kunick has made a series of acquisitions.

Wandering trolleys impounded

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities is writing to its 76 members in England today for their views on the growing urban problem of abandoned supermarket trolleys (Arthur Osman writes).

The London Borough of Sutton had sought the association's advice. An association official said: "After we receive our members' views we shall decide what to do."

About ten authorities have already decided on punitive measures. Solihull in the West Midlands became the latest yesterday by deciding to make stores pay a £4 fee to recover trolleys from a special pound.

Stores and supermarkets in the town will have one month to reclaim trolleys worth between £30 and £40 each cleared from streets, car parks and other sites. If they are not reclaimed the council will dispose of them.

Mr Keith Samuels, chairman of the town's public works committee, said: "We hoped this will clear up the problem, which has been with us for some time."

Supermarkets may start charging a deposit to make sure they are brought back."

Mr Richard Taylor, consumer affairs director for Tesco, said about ten councils were now operating the same sort of scheme involving what he called "a ransom" for the return of trolleys.

He continued: "It is something to which we object as a trade. There have been discussions between Solihull and the British Retailers' Association in an attempt to come to an amicable agreement. We actively challenge a local authority's right to do this, although we appreciate they have powers under the Highway Act to remove anything which constitutes a public danger."

"Our point is that these trolleys are not abandoned, and that they are going to be recovered." Some supermarkets had up to six people permanently employed collecting trolleys abandoned by customers and in Tesco's larger stores there were specially-designed low-level collection vehicles.

Mr Taylor said: "We spend a lot of time, effort and money recovering trolleys and we get more than a little upset when a local authority reacts in this fashion."

He said the retailers association has contemplated challenging an authority in the London area, but the matter was dropped when the authority returned the trolleys it was holding. He said: "It would be a last resort to take a local authority to court".

Retailers were now experimenting with a number of deposit schemes.



Sir Fred: Concentrating on upmarket leisure

These include an Isle of Wight hotel, sold by Sir Fred, and various leisure interests in Scarborough, acquired largely from Mr Robinson.

Sir Fred told the six shareholders that more takeovers were underway and two near com-

Move to British cars seen in rising sales

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Record sales of new cars in August showed a significant swing away from imports and in favour of British-based manufacturers. The Japanese fared particularly badly in a month in which they normally do well.

August is the best month of the year for the importers, with private buyers dominating the market in their rush to obtain the new registration letter. Fleet and company buyers, who tend to favour BL, Ford and Vauxhall, usually stay away.

This August, however, tempted by the incentive and discount campaigns waged by those three companies, private buyers have been tempted away from imported cars.

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Believers in the influence of the planets buying six-month horoscope charts at the computerized astrology shop in Selfridges. The computer can produce a chart in five minutes. Photograph: Suresh Karadia.

Planetary influences at Selfridges

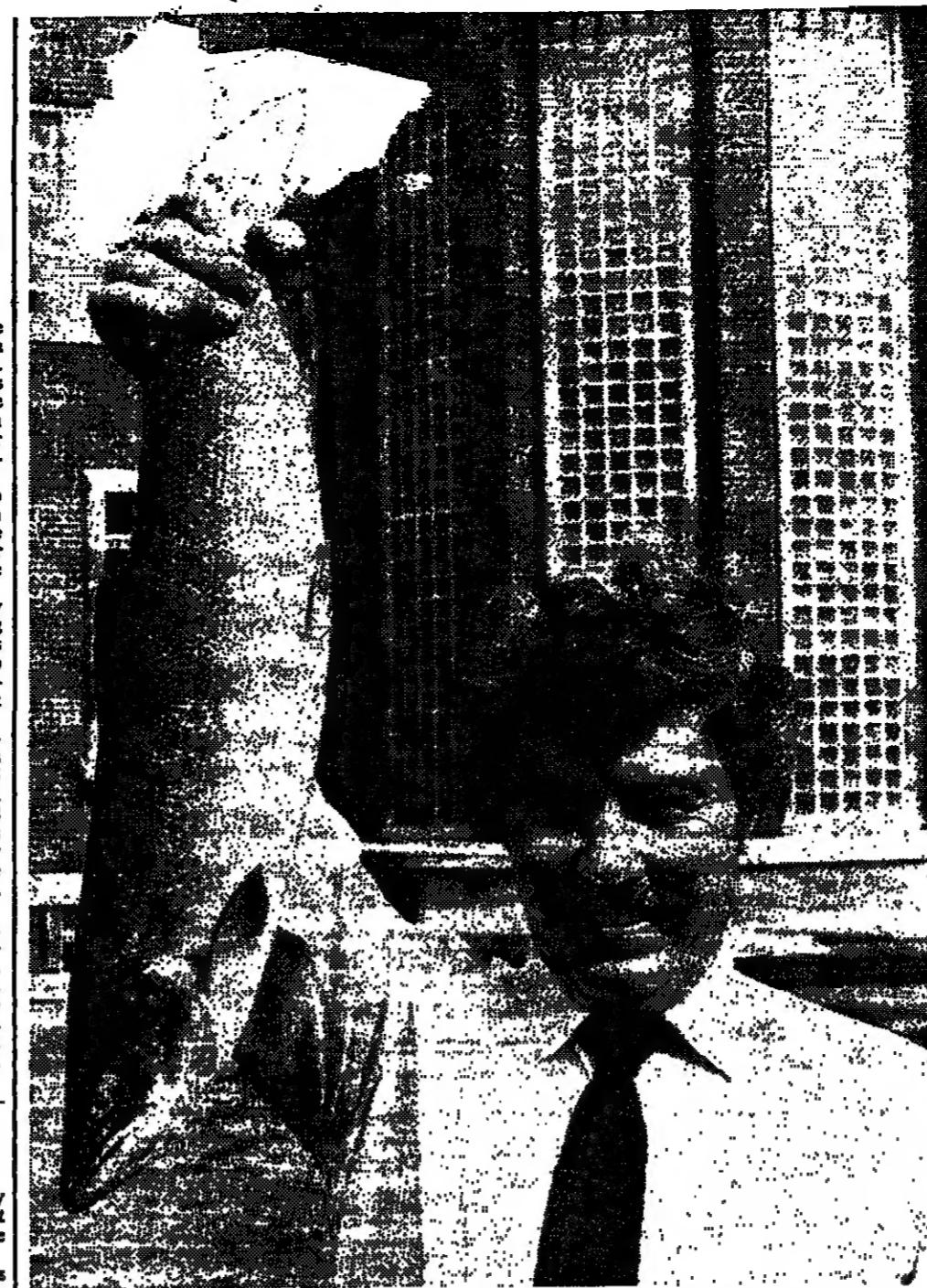
By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

What is claimed to be the first computerized astrology shop in Britain has opened at Selfridges in London where believers are buying six-month prediction charts for less than £10.

The charts are based on the computers of five United States publications: *Planets in Transit*, *Planets in Your Life*, *Planets in Aspects* and *Planets in Love*, written by three astrologers in the United States.

The subject's name, birthplace, date and time is fed into the computer and in five minutes a chart is produced.

The venture is the idea of Mr Douglas Villiers who has



Fin de siècle: Mr Russell Doig displaying his historic catch. Photograph: Bill Warhurst

Thames salmon catch of the century

Mr Russell Doig, an angler who hooked the first authenticated salmon taken from the Thames for 150 years, was yesterday presented with a trophy and a cheque for £250 for his achievement.

The last salmon caught by rod and line upstream of London was in 1833, but the river became so polluted that little survived in it.

During the past 20 years, a series of anti-pollution measures has led to 104 species of fish being identified in the river and in 1979

the Thames Water Authority began reintroducing salmon.

The chief executive of the authority, Mr Hugh Fish said yesterday: "The catching of a salmon by rod and line proves beyond all doubt that the Thames is now clean".

Mr Doig, aged 46, a motor mechanic of Stanwell, Middlesex caught the 6lb 12oz salmon at Chertsey weir pool on August 23 using a Mepps Number One spinner.

His catch is to be mounted and will be put on display by the authority.

Goldcrest aims to raise £20m

By David Hewson

Goldcrest, the film and television company that made the Oscar-winning *Gandhi*, is planning to raise £20m from institutional investors later this year.

The money will be used to finance further expansion in the company's interests in production, distribution and pay television. One future option being considered by the company is that of going public.

Mr James Lee, Goldcrest's chairman, said yesterday that he thought it would be attractive to have a publicly quoted company in Britain which was solely involved in film and television production.

Mr Lee, who is also deputy chairman and chief executive of Goldcrest's parent company, Pearson Longman, has persuaded a number of institutional investors to chance their funds on the normally risky area of film production by offering pre-sold production packages backed by an impressive array of cinemas and television talent who are on his board.

Cult defended by 'rebel' teacher

From Ronald Faz, Liverpool

The newly appointed mathematics master at Croxteth School, the former comprehensive and now rebel independent school in Liverpool, yesterday defended his membership of the Amanda Marga, the Indian cult which he has been accused of performing ritual murders.

Mr Philip Carspecken, aged 31, a United States social science graduate, admitted his membership but said: "We do not practice ritual murder, neither are there homosexuals at all. We are primarily a social service organization that practises yoga."

He said he had been a member of the movement in the US for 10 years and in Britain for two years. They believed in implementing socialist policies in a peaceful way and the allegations that had been made in India were "very distorted".

The school management was aware that he was a member of the cult, he said, and that he had been found guilty of using insulting behaviour during a visit to Liverpool by the Queen 18 months ago.

Bath dome project changed

By Craig Seton

A public inquiry over part of the plan to restore Bath as a spa has been averted after a decision by architects to bow to pressure from groups concerned with the city's architectural heritage.

A number of organizations, including the Georgian Group and the Bath Preservation Trust, took exception to part of the scheme to refurbish the Old Royal Bath, the open-air Cross Bath and the Beau Street Bath. City councillors were also divided.

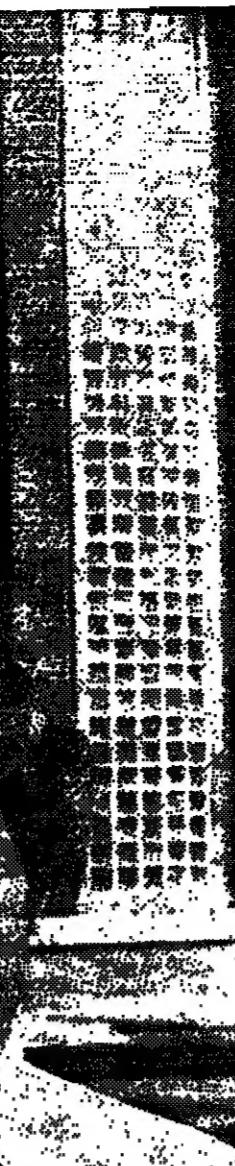
The outcry was over a proposal to roof over the Cross Bath with a dome, rising six feet above the parapet.

The Georgian Group described the scheme as "perverse and eccentric" and accused Mr William Beaven and the Royal Fine Arts Commission which supported the scheme, of "conning at the disruption of an important and delightful piece of Georgian landscape". It called for a public inquiry.

A more detailed report of some 50 pages is available for about £13.

Future Forecasts claims that no two charts are the same as each requires about six billion computations.

Future Forecasts expects to attract a lot of tourist trade and intends to try and establish itself at Heathrow airport, London. Mr Villiers said: "We are looking for pleasure-seekers. People going on a day out or waiting at an airport in the right relaxed mood".



High savings bring hope of shorter home loan queues

By Lorna Bourke

Queues for home loans are likely to shorten as building societies continue to take in more money.

Receipts for August are likely to be nearly £500m — a drop of more than £200m on the previous month, but still significantly higher than August 1982, when net receipts reached only £437m. August is traditionally not a good month to pull in savings, as families are away on holiday, and the societies are pleased to have beaten their 1982 August figure.

Today sees the launch of the big five societies' new term share offer paying 9 per cent of basic rate tax. The societies expect this new issue to attract an extra £1,000m, which should go a long way towards reducing mortgage queues.

Smaller societies are offering even better terms, with the Hemel Hempstead and Greenwich societies paying 9.25 per cent of basic rate tax. Several societies are compounding interest half-yearly instead of annually, giving a higher return.

Societies need to raise at least

£700m a month to meet existing mortgage demand and the shortfall in August will probably be met by borrowing on the money markets. In July the societies raised £200m from non-traditional sources.

"This source is likely to continue to make a significant contribution to the funds available for mortgage lending, and may become more important in October, when societies are able to pay interest without deduction of tax on time deposits," Mr Richard Weir, secretary general of the Building Societies Association, commented.

The launch of term shares by the societies is good news for investors, but bad news for borrowers. To finance the higher return on term shares, both the Halifax and Leeds Permanent building societies are reintroducing differential mortgages, the system of charging more for larger than average loans.

Nationwide is considering the introduction of term shares, but only Woolwich remains firm that it will not back home loan differentials.

Back guard saved Rippon

A new search is to be mounted in the hunt for Mrs Diane Jones, the missing wife of an Essex village doctor. Scores of searchers, mounted police and tracker dogs will comb a square mile round her home at Coggeshall.

The operation, due to begin today with a search of a small wood, is expected to last up to three days. Dr Robert Jones's farmhouse home, which is up for sale, will also be searched again for clues. Senior Essex police officers gave consent yesterday for the new search, which will push the cost of the hunt so far as to more than £500,000.

Police were still trying yesterday to find a woman who telephoned on Tuesday to say she had seen Mrs Jones, aged 33, in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Home computer firms cut prices

Two United States micro computer manufacturers have announced big reductions for the British market. Texas Instruments, whose home computer business is running into deficit, is cutting the retail price of its TI99-4A micro from £150 to £100; it was introduced two years ago at £300. Software prices are also being cut.

Commodore, which is still very profitable, is cutting the price of most of its business computers. A typical system will cost £1,985 rather than £2,750.

Mr Len Downton, who operates donkey rides on the beach at Weymouth, Dorset, left £163,000 in his will, published yesterday. He died last April, aged 72, still running the donkey pitch started by his grandfather in 1888. His son John now runs the business.

Other wills, page 12

Theft charges

Six men from the Liverpool area were yesterday charged with offences in connection with the theft of more than £12,000 worth of property recovered by police after the Reading Rock Festival held in Berkshire during the weekend.

We are the experts

All our beds are made by craftsmen and are apparently just top quality standard. beds — but only in appearance. And we do not charge the earth — in fact no more than a good top quality single or double 'standard' bed. Because our beds come straight from our factory we are able to cut out the middlemen's profit and keep our prices down.

Postal delays persist despite rise in complaints

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

More people complained to the Post Office Users' National Council about the service they received from the Post Office last year than in any of the two previous years and yet the corporation still has a poor record of service.

The disclosures are contained in the council's annual report, published yesterday. In the last financial year, ending in March, the council says it continued to press the Post Office about the poor quality of service "which remained disappointing despite management's attempts to get improvements".

The council handled 11,000 complaints from customers of the post and telephone services. Postal complaints totalled 3,744, an increase on 3,115 (1982) and 3,184 (1981). The bulk of the complaints to the council were about delays, which totalled 849, a rise of about 28 per cent.

The report says: "Complaints about delays recorded a particularly sharp upturn in June and September, reflecting in turn the rail strikes and the TUC Day of Action, and again in January, 1983, when the extended new year holiday caused a collection and sorting build-up which adversely affected delivery efficiency for several days after".

Reports of impending closures of post offices has led to a large volume of complaints. The council concludes: "Such closures can bring hardship to sections of the community and the problems created continue to be a matter of serious concern to us".

The Post Office is conducting a survey on its post offices and sub-post offices.

The number of complaints about telephone service, according to the council's report, has dropped markedly to 7,487 from 11,001 in 1982 and 13,333 in 1981. Complaints about accounts total 2,963, which is almost a third of what they were two years ago.

The council said complaints largely involved delays in getting faults repaired. But it noted that statistics from British Telecom showed that nationally the percentage of faults cleared by the end of the next working day had risen from just over 58 per cent in 1979/80 to 85 per cent in 1982/83.

However, a number of complaints were received from subscribers unable to get the new telephone handsets advertised by British Telecom.

The council said it received several complaints from customers unable to get some of those instruments either because there were delays with British Telecom's suppliers or that British Telecom's local sales staff knew nothing about them.

Man found dead after gun siege

A four-hour armed siege ended yesterday when a man was found to have killed himself after shooting and critically wounding his daughter aged 15.

The shooting came after a domestic dispute that broke out in the early hours of the morning at the family's maisonette in Priors Croft, just off the High Street in Old Woking, Surrey.

Mrs Shirley Frost, aged 38, ran for help to a neighbour with blood streaming from her head after being struck by a soda siphon. Mr Ronald Frost, then his daughter Carla, aged nine, ran out saying that her father had a gun.

Neighbours found Mrs Frost's daughter Carol lying shot on the kitchen floor. Mrs Frost and the two girls were rushed by ambulance to hospital as police cordoned off the area, warning neighbours to remain indoors.

As a siege began Carol was transferred to the Atkinson Morley Hospital, Wimbledon, where she underwent an emergency operation for gunshot wounds. A hospital spokesman said her condition was critical.

At the council estate where the family lived 12 marksmen from the Surrey police firearms support unit took up strategic positions as senior officers tried to make contact with Mr Frost, using a loud hailer.

But there was no response and after a bang that could have been a shot, the police moved into the house and found Mr Frost, who held a firearms licence, lying dead in the bedroom with a gun by his side.



Mixed effects: The Burrator reservoir, serving the Plymouth area, which is down to 30 days' supply of water and (right) a dwarf rose thrown up by the "greenhouse" atmosphere being inspected by Mr Raymond Roads, a gardener from Wimborne, Dorset.



Downpour after drought meeting

By Craig Seton

Heavy rain fell over Plymouth yesterday as the Southwest Water Authority decided to seek government approval to ban the use of water in a wide range of activities in the city and across much of Devon because of the drought.

The authority is to ask Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for the Environment, for permission to ban the watering of parks, recreation grounds, sports and playing fields, race and golf courses, and for the replenishment of private swimming pools and ponds, if that should become necessary.

The ban would also apply to car washing equipment, the cleaning of public buildings and the use of water in ornamental fountains and cascades. If the ban is applied it would affect hundreds of thousands of people in Plymouth and north, mid and west Devon.

The Burrator reservoir, on Dartmoor, which supplies Plymouth, is down to 43 per cent of capacity and has only 30 days' supply left. The level has not fallen so low since the drought of 1976 when standpipes had to be erected in parts of the West Country.

After deciding on the emergency measures, members of the authority left the meeting to be greeted by a heavy downpour. With depressions forcing over the Atlantic, more rain was forecast.

Forecast, back page

Give cyclists better deal, engineers say

By David Nicholson-Lord

Britain's highway engineers, traditionally regarded as protagonists of the motor-car and the enemies of pedal-power, yesterday called for widespread improvements in road design and traffic management to benefit cyclists.

In a 60-page report, *Providing for the Cyclist*, the Institution of Highways and Transportation advocated more and better cycle routes, greater mixing of cyclists and pedestrians on footpaths and crossings, and more experiments with converting disused railways lines for cyclists and allowing them to ride the "wrong way" up one-way streets.

The future of cycling, according to the institution, lies largely on the existing road network, not segregated tracks. The width, quality and maintenance of roads should be improved and better parking provided. Cyclists' safety, it adds, "should not depend" of cycling in the gutter".

The institution, which represents 8,700 engineers employed by councils, central government and consultants, yesterday described its guidelines as an "important step forward" in the recognition of cyclists. It says that its recommendations can be achieved at "modest cost" and that they will reduce accidents, and encourage new cyclists on to city streets.

Mr Kenneth Huddart, the chief

Council overspending: 3

Capital cohesion that cuts could corrode

By David Walker

Approached either from the south across the Tyne gorge or from the north by the town moor, Newcastle-upon-Tyne shows little of the decay and seediness visible in the inner areas of Manchester or Liverpool. When those two cities were convulsed in the summer of 1981, the Tyne was quiet.

The two facts are connected, city officials say: Newcastle's appearance and social cohesion are the products of a generation of relatively high municipal spending. "We have done so much over the past 20 years that our housing stock looks reasonable", Mr Jeremy Beecham, the council leader, said.

Realistically, he said, there would not be "blood on the streets" if the city council in Newcastle cut back its spending to the levels desired by the Government. But there would, over time, be profound damage to the Tynesiders' ability to cope, for example with their historically high levels of unemployment. There would at least be a "tremendous upsurge in vandalism among unemployed youngsters at present provided for by various city programmes", Mr Beecham said.

Newcastle is an unabashed high spender with one of the highest rate poundages in the country. This year it is spending 30 per cent more than the Government says it needs; over 4 per cent above its control target. The northern region of the Confederation of British Industry, based in the city, raises a continuous outcry about the impact of rates on business.

The city's case, which is to be presented to the Government over coming months, is that Whitehall figures have consistently failed to take into account that Newcastle is more than just another urban district. It is a regional capital, with all the associated costs.

Officials in the palatial town hall, built in the era of Mr T. Dan Smith, a once-celebrated Newcastle councillor run through the

traffic engineer with the Greater London Council and chairman of the group that produced the report, said the majority of local authorities had done "nothing special" for cyclists. Experience showed that the number of cyclists more than doubled when facilities were improved.

Mr Michael Hardy, the president of the institution and county surveyor for Hertfordshire, added: "We are trying to twist the arms of elected members, engineers, local authorities and central government to widen the use of facilities for cyclists."

Cost-benefit analysis by the GLC has indicated that a £12,000 investment in a mile of cycle route would offer value for money if it was used by 100 bicycles a day.

The report says cycling saves energy, is healthy and pollution-free and is a viable alternative for trips to work. But casualty rates remain "obstinately high", with 90 per cent of accidents occurring in urban areas. Cycle traffic has doubled in recent years and further increases without better roads design could significantly increase accident rates.

The report was welcomed yesterday by cycling bodies including the Cyclists' Touring Club, the largest cycling body in the country with 35,000 members, and the London Cycling Campaign.

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More than a million Filipinos mourn at Aquino's funeral

Manila (Reuters) - More than a million Filipinos turned out yesterday for the funeral of Benigno Aquino, the assassinated opposition leader, in a display of grief which developed into a peaceful demonstration of opposition to President Ferdinand Marcos.

The garlanded coffin, borne on a 10-wheel vehicle, marched along a 15-mile route from the Aquino family parish church in north Manila to a cemetery south of the capital.

The crowds surged alongside, between, before and behind the cavalcade of mourners in a procession that stretched for about two miles and brought much of the central area to a standstill.

The journey took nearly 12 hours and a police officer said one million was a conservative estimate for the turnout.

Some of the mourners carried placards reading "No reconciliation under the Marcos regime", "Marcos is a great liar" and "A bullet will never subdue the principles Ninoy (Aquino) upheld". Others said: "Ninoy you are not alone" and "Marcos you are alone".

Police kept a deliberately low profile, as though riot squads were on standby in case of trouble. By nightfall, with the cortège still moving at little more than a walking pace, no serious incidents had been reported.

At exactly 7pm people blew their car horns, and banged on cans, pots and pans and rubbish

bin lids in many parts of the city in a "noise barrage" protest against Aquino's murderer.

The former senator was shot 10 days ago as he stepped off the aircraft that brought him back to the Philippines after three years of self-imposed exile in the United States.

Police yesterday identified the alleged killer as Orlando Galman, aged 33. They described him as a notorious killer and hired gunman with underworld connections and perhaps links to subversive elements.

But there were apparently no representatives from the Marcos Government or from Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia or Indonesia, which, with the Philippines, make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Cardinal Jaime Sin, leader of the country's 42 million Roman Catholics, led the funeral service, pleading for peace.

"With his death let us not bind ourselves to the fact that he came back not for confrontation but for reconciliation", he said.

"There is an atmosphere of repression and a climate of fear... his death... personified Filipino courage in the face of oppression".

Outside the church Mr Diocesano Macapagal, who preceded Mr Marcos as President until 1964, said: "I have never in my life seen anything like this. Marcos should realize that it is time for him to go but of course he will not."

For Filipinos and followers of Aquino, yellow recalls the song "Tie a Yellow Ribbon round the Old Oak Tree" about a prisoner returning home from jail.

Aquino had spent seven years in military jail and was under

sentence of death for murder, subversion and illegal possession of arms when President Marcos let him go to the United States for heart surgery in 1980.

At least six ambassadors, two acting chiefs of mission, many senior diplomats and a capacity congregation of at least 10,000 attended the funeral service at the Santo Domingo church near Aquino's family home.

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Nigeria chief denies raising private army

Lagos (Reuters) - The Governor of Nigeria's western Ogun state has denied charges by the ruling National Party of Nigeria (NPN) that his government had recruited a private army to foment trouble during the country's series of five elections already concluded.

Violence erupted in the other two UPN-controlled western states of Oyo and Ondo during government elections.

Police said 33 people were killed in the Oyo violence, but the state's NPN leader told reporters in an election on August 13, said on television on Tuesday that more than 100 people had died.

Elections to the Senate, the House of Representatives and state assemblies have been postponed indefinitely in the two states.

In the latest results of Saturday's House of Representatives election, President Shehu Shagari's NPN appeared set to win overwhelming control of the 450-member lower house.

The unit became necessary because the national police command in Ogun "was found to be reluctant to provide or found to be capable of providing adequate protection to government functionaries, properties and institutions on a number of occasions," he said.

Ogun is the home state of the UPN leader, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, who lost to Mr Shagari in the presidential poll on August 25.

Carter gives backing to Mondale

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington

Mr Walter Mondale has received the endorsement of Mr Jimmy Carter, the former President whose deputy he was, in his attempt to win the Democratic Party's nomination for the presidential elections next year.

Mr Mondale is the front-runner among six Democratic hopefuls but has been losing ground in recent months to Senator John Glenn. The Mondale camp hopes Mr Carter's support will improve their candidate's standing in the south where he is now trailing behind Senator Glenn.

Although Mr Mondale was delighted with the fulsome praise which Mr Carter showered upon him, his endorsement by the former President could prove a mixed blessing.

It is widely believed that Mr Mondale's association with the unpopular Carter Administration is a major weakness in his candidacy.

Yesterday Mr Carter graciously assisted his former vice-president by saying: "It would be a mistake for him politically or otherwise to be closely associated with me or too much dependent on me or the policies I espoused as President."

He added that Mr Mondale offered a good balance of progressive views on social and domestic issues and conservatism on fiscal policies.

Ulf and his one-armed bandit fight the law

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

A special committee of the Swedish Parliament will be convened this month to discuss the remarkable case of 14-year-old Ulf Linde who wants permission to install a "one-armed bandit" in his bedroom.

Ulf bought the machine from abroad in January this year. It is damaged, unable to take coins or pay out jackpots. Ulf wanted it "for decoration". He said: "I've always wanted one - I don't know why."

However, one-armed bandits are banned under Sweden's strict anti-gambling laws, so to be on the safe side Ulf telephoned the police in his home town of Umeå to ask their advice. The police referred him to the county council for the province of Västerbotten. The county council passed the matter over to another body, the Lottery Authority, which issues licences for the limited forms of gambling that still exist in Sweden.

The authority's chairman, Mr Johan Palm, was outraged. "It would be the same as applying for leave to operate a still in order to manufacture alcohol at home", he said. Permission was duly refused.

Ulf doggedly took the matter to government level. He appealed to the Ministry of Education, claiming the machine to be a museum piece.

A senior civil servant, Mrs Ingela Gardner, has now been ordered to draw up a preliminary report on the matter for submission to a government committee which will decide the bandit's fate later this month.

The affair has taken nine months to get this far. "I'm still hopeful," said Ulf.

Jesuits begin search for a new leader

From Peter Nichols, Rome

About 220 Jesuits from all over the world formally begin the task today of seeking a new general to lead the Roman Catholic Church's most formidable religious order.

Their next head, who succeeds the ailing Father Pedro Arrupe, will face the delicate task of re-establishing an acceptable working relationship with the Pope. Father Arrupe did not have such a relationship and also is now partially incapacitated as the consequence of a stroke. His resignation, the first in the order's history by a general, will take place on Saturday, when solemn homage will be paid to his work.

The general congregation to elect his successor is the thirty-third in the nearly 450 years of the Order's existence and the only one to take place at the time when the Jesuits are ruled by a delegate personally appointed by the Pope.

Father Paolo Dezza, the octogenarian chosen by the Pope to superintend the affairs of the 26,000 Jesuits, said yesterday that he thought the new General would emerge after about a fortnight. There are no official candidates and the successful candidate must obtain an absolute majority.

He himself foresaw a General who would bring "greater reflection and penetration". A more thoughtful generalship was the implication after the active and

controversial leadership of the Spaniard Father Arrupe.

At the time of the appointment of Father Dezza in October 1981 the Pope also named Father Giuseppe Pitau as his deputy. Father Pitau, who is himself a candidate, says that they should look for a person who loves Jesuit traditions but would know how to act in a creative way to meet modern challenges.

The proverbial prudence of the Jesuits (recommended by St Ignatius himself, the first General, as a quality essential for a head of the order) reduces talk of candidates but half a dozen names are heard with some frequency. That of Father Pitau is usually the first, although his election could be taken as meaning too much readiness to make the Pope happy.

The same would be said of Father Dezza, who has the additional disadvantage of his venerable age. St Ignatius maintained that a general should be neither too young or too old. With becoming modesty, Father Dezza has pointed out that at the age of 82 he has little more to look forward to.

He himself gave a clue to another name, that of Father Roberto Tucci, Director-General of Vatican Radio and organizer of the Pope's journeys.

Leading article, page 11

Malaysia losing battle to curb powers of King and sultans

From M. G. G. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur

Signs are increasing that the Malaysian Government may have misjudged when it rushed through Parliament last month constitutional amendments which would effectively reduce the monarch's power to delay legislation and to declare an emergency.

The King must still sign the changes before they become law, and that is becoming unlikely because Malaysia's nine sultans and the King themselves, among themselves every five years all reject the amendments as unconstitutional and enjoy much more support than the Government on the issue.

Malaysia's rulers have more powers than is usual for constitutional monarchs.

When republican sentiments surfaced briefly after the 1969 racial riots, Parliament and the state legislatures made it sedition and unconstitutional to reduce the ruler's entrenched powers without their consent; MPs also lost their immunity when speaking on such matters in the house.

So, when Parliament passed a Bill in August incorporating 22 constitutional amendments, two of which reduced the powers of the rulers, a confrontation was inevitable.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, controlled the debate by ordering his ruling coalition MPs and senators and the press not to highlight the debate on the rulers' powers and prerogatives.

Malay-dominated federal and state governments.

The rulers, to a man, feel threatened by the substance of the amendments and would oppose them on procedural grounds. The Prime Minister did not discuss them, as the constitution required, with either the King or the rulers, a palace source said. The rulers are taking legal advice.

The King is unlikely to give his assent unless it is likely he might be deposed if he did. The Government may wait until after April next year, when his term expires, and introduce the Bill again, thought probably in a different form.

Since the Bill also increased the number of parliamentary and state assembly seats and removed the Privy Council as the final court of appeal in civil cases, there was plenty to be debated, because of opposition from the rulers. In one state, the sultan refused an audience to his Menteri Besar (Chief Minister) to discuss the amendments.

One reason for the amendments was the fear that the exuberant and independent-minded Sultans of Pahang and Johore, who under the rules stand the best chance to be the next two kings, could cause difficulties during their reigns.

But palace sources say the sultant would have suggested a way out of that without amending the constitution.

The rulers meet in special session next month to discuss the problem.



Courting arrest: Gulzar Begum, a woman union leader, just before her arrest at a Karachi court. She was protesting with lawyers against martial law

Prison population doubles in Sind

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad

The jail population in the Pakistan province of Sind has increased by about 3,500 since August 14 when the opposition launched its campaign against martial law.

According to a report in a Karachi newspaper, there are now 5,230 prisoners in 12 Sind jails compared with 2,500 on August 14. The jails still have room for another thousand prisoners but additional temporary cells and centres for special

for the present agitation, has however, urged his followers to join the struggle.

Meanwhile the Jamaat Islami leaders who met general Zia-ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, on the eve of his present visit to Turkey, are considering street protests to counter the MRD campaign against martial law. The Jamaat generally backs President Zia's proposed reforms and goes along with its political programme.

Hongkong reserves claimed by China

Hongkong in mass exodus if the Sino-British talks do not give guarantees of personal freedom and independence (Richard Hughes)

The president of the Hongkong Medical Association, Dr Nenais Vien predicts that "at least 80 per cent of Hongkong's 5,000 doctors will leave if the talks end unfavourably."

He added: "Some doctors who are in the process of applying for resident status in Western countries have already sent their wives and children abroad while they maintain a wait-and-see attitude."

"Others are already getting their immigration papers to go overseas. Some have bought passports from the Dominican Republic." The president of the Hongkong Institute of Architects, Mr Edward Ho, said that many architects were already talking about leaving.

If there is an exodus of architects, it will not come in 1996 but much sooner and probably even in the next few years. "It is an urgent problem for architects and not just a matter of politics."

The former chairman of the Hongkong Bar Association, Mr Martin Lee, QC, has already sounded a warning that most lawyers can be expected to leave Hongkong before 1997 "if they get no guarantees from China of independence of the judiciary."

Another controversy - which ironically weakens Hongkong's legal claims - is being highlighted on the programme of the Commonwealth law conference which opens here next month: the translation of Hongkong laws into Cantonese.

One leading Hongkong barrister said: "How can we urge the Chinese to retain our existing laws when half of them are not even written in the Chinese language?"

Police clear estate of protesting workers

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

For the sixth time in as many days, the Guardia Civil bodily removed dozens of unemployed farm labourers from a large privately owned estate near Seville, as a union-backed campaign to improve the lot of Spain's landless farm workers gained momentum.

Other actions occurring just about every day in Western Andalusia include sit-ins by jobless workers on main roads, the occupation of churches and town halls and protest marches. A plan to block national highways and railways in the south was dropped after Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, remarked publicly that such actions would be considered illegal.

Prime movers of the campaign are the Farm Workers' Union, a left-wing organization whose members damaged farm machinery when the Centre Party was in power but have shown more restraint under the Socialist Government. The farm federation of the Communist-led Workers' Commissions, Spain's biggest trade union, is also active. The Socialist-led General Labour Union has played a predictably minor role in the campaign to embarrass the Government into doing something about endemic

unemployment in the area where Señor Gonzalez once practised as a labour lawyer.

The immediate objective is to get more money out of a make-work programme funded by the Government to carry out small public works projects in poor villages. They want the rule that limits the number of members of a single family who collect such money to be waived, and they want to be allowed to work more days per month. Their long-term aim is to force the adoption of an agrarian reform programme.

In the meantime, the Farm Workers' Union insists that farm owners should be obliged to hire at least one worker for every 80 acres. The union also wants landowners to switch to more labour-intensive crops and do away with most machinery.

Next Monday leaders of the Workers' Commissions will head a march of jobless workers which is to set out from Badolosa, near Seville, and walk through much of Andalusia for the following 35 days. On September 10 the Farm Workers' Union will open its congress in Marimalea, also near Seville, a town which made the headlines under the previous regime because of its repeated hunger strikes designed to emphasize poverty in the area.

Daughter locked up in love tangle

Palermo (AP) - Sicily's Anti-Mafia police, acting on a tip from a desperate lover, freed a 23-year-old woman who was locked up semi-nude by her parents for wishing to marry a divorced man.

Police in the town of Carini, nine miles east of here, found Signora Eugenia Nobile in the house of a neighbour where she had been held for two days.

The woman, who had been stripped to her underclothes to prevent her escape, was put there by her parents because she refused to renounce her plans to marry Signor Salvatore Grigoli, a 29-year-old bricklayer, in the process of divorce. "My parents consider it a dishonour to marry a divorced man," she told her rescuers.

Police arrested 44-year-old Signora Grazia Santilli for holding the woman captive. "For doing a favour to my friends by taking in their dishonourable daughter I have been arrested. It doesn't make sense," Signora Santilli said.

Police could not find Signora Nobile's parents.

£2.2bn bill for floods in Spain

Madrid (Reuter) - Damage caused by weekend floods which killed at least 31 people in northern Spain has been provisionally estimated at about £2.2 billion, regional officials said here.

The death toll has been revised downwards from an original figure of 37 given by rescue workers.

The preliminary estimate included damage to road and rail links, industry and businesses as well as crop and livestock losses. No breakdown of the figures was immediately available.

About 26,000 people in the Basque country alone could lose their jobs because of wrecked factories and businesses. The Basque country, and Cantabria, worst hit by the heaviest August rains in 20 years, were expected to be declared disaster areas by the Cabinet in Madrid.

In Bayonne, France, police said they had found the body of a 71-year-old woman in a caravan, bringing to six the French death toll in the floods. The body was discovered in the Pyrenean town of Saint Jean de Luz.

Jailed tax rebel could topple Danish Cabinet

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

Mr Morgan Gislstrup, tax lawyer and leader of the anti-tax Progress Party, went to prison yesterday to serve a three-year sentence for gross tax fraud. The sentence poses a serious threat to the life of Denmark's eleven-month old Conservative-Liberal coalition.

Mr Gislstrup, aged 57, was sentenced in the Supreme Court last June at the end of a nine-year legal fight. In addition to the prison sentence he was ordered to pay 6m kroner (£410,000) in fines, back taxes and legal costs. He was subsequently expelled from the Danish Parliament.

The American-trained lawyer leaves behind him a wrangling, deeply split party, embittered by the sentence on its founder, which looks like bringing down the government at an extraordinary summer session of the Folketing (Parliament) to be held on September 9.

The four-party minority coalition of Mr Poul Schlüter, the Conservative Prime Minister, needs the support of the Progress Party to pass vital legislation. Mr Schlüter has said his Government will resign and call elections in October, if the legislation, cutting grants to local authorities, is not passed next week.

The Progress Party, Denmark's sixth biggest, has only 13 members in Parliament after three members resigned to support the Government.

With Mr Gislstrup apparently determined to exact revenge on the Government and manipulate his fellow politicians from his prison cell, the divided residue of his party is threatening to defeat the Government unless it meets the Progress Party's demands for sizable income tax reductions in the current series of negotiations.

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Counting the cost in Lebanon

Battles in Beirut force Reagan to review role of the Marines

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The fighting in and around Beirut is forcing the Reagan Administration to review the role and size of the US contingent in the multinational peace-keeping force.

Although President Reagan has told Congressional leaders that the 1,200 Marines have only been involved in "sporadic fighting" and their status therefore remains unchanged, it has become clear that if hostilities between Lebanese factions continue at their present level, the US may have to consider sending more troops.

The Marines were sent to Lebanon a year ago to help to shore up the authority of President Amin Gemayel's government and bring peace to the country.

However, a decision to send more troops would inevitably provoke opposition in Congress, where demands have already been made calling for a provision in the War Powers Act to be invoked which would allow Congress to demand the recall of the US contingent within 60 to 90 days.

For the moment the adminis-

tration hopes the initiative by Mr Robert McFarlane, the President's special envoy, may succeed in reconciling the Lebanese factions. While his talks are in progress US officials have been trying to play down the scale of the fighting, which has resulted in the deaths of two American and four French military personnel.

US officials have emphasized that the Marines had not been involved in "combat operations" and that they had only fired in self-defence. They said that the troops remained in Lebanon in a purely peace-keeping role.

For the moment President Reagan is trying to avoid a Congressional review of the Marines' continued presence in Lebanon. In his letter to Congressional leaders the President pointed out that as the Marines had only been involved in sporadic fighting, it was not necessary for him to invoke a provision in the War Powers Act which would theoretically allow Congress to veto their continued deployment in Lebanon.

US accused by Russia of blackmail

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Widespread discontent has been reported among the 2,000 Israeli troops based in Lebanon's Chouf mountains after Tuesday's surprise government decision once again to delay their redeployment to a more secure front line further south along the Awali River.

News of anger and concern at the postponement - the third in a matter of weeks - was disclosed by Israeli military correspondents who had been taken to the area in preparation for the pullback, which had been scheduled to begin at first light yesterday.

Ill-feeling among the troops has been compounded by the fact that they have been living under harsh field conditions for several weeks in preparation for a rapid withdrawal, a dangerous exercise which will be complicated by the narrow, pot-holed roads over which the convoys will travel.

It is understood that disquiet over an earlier delay was bluntly expressed to Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, when he made a tour of positions near Beirut last week.

Before the postponement - again, American-inspired - forces had been reported high because as one Israeli soldier said: "We are finally moving in the right direction".

The latest delay has also angered many Israelis who have relatives serving their annual reserve duty in Lebanon. All those I spoke to yesterday were adamant that the operation should begin at once, even at the

Saying that he did not know how long the Marines would have to remain there, he wrote: "I believe that the continued presence of these US forces in Lebanon is essential to the objective of helping to restore the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon."

Although the renewed fighting has not forced the President to abandon his holiday in California, he has spent much of his time during the past three days conferring by telephone with aides staying at a nearby hotel and with a "special situation group" which has been set up in Washington.

This group is headed by Vice-President George Bush and includes Mr George Shultz, Secretary of State, and Mr Caspar Weinberger, Defence Secretary.

Senator Charles Mathias (Republican, Maryland), who is an author of the War Powers Act, added his voice to those who are urging the President to seek Congressional authorization if he intends to keep the Marines in Lebanon.

Chouf pull-back delay angers Israeli troops

From Mario Medina, Athens

Greece blamed Washington yesterday for a delay in signing the agreement about American military bases in Greece and said

it would not tolerate the situation for long.

"We are setting no ultimatum," said Mr Dimitri Maroudas, the Government's chief spokesman.

"But we shall not tolerate the perpetuation of the present status of the bases on the pretext that the signing is delayed."

The United States and Greece last month initialed a five-year

agreement on the supersession of

the two 30-year-old agreements.

Mr Maroudas said the bases would be removed by a set date.

Government banners strung across streets and highways throughout the country announced that the bases will go by the end of 1988. "The bases are going," the slogans proclaim. "Our promises become facts. National independence is regained."

Despite the political turmoil caused by the resignation of Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, Israeli officials remain confident it will not affect the final decision for a partial withdrawal. It was noted that Mr Arens is not involved directly in the leadership struggle, as he is not a Knesset member and therefore not eligible.

Tuesday's postponement was caused by the resignation of Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, Israeli officials remain confident it will not affect the final decision for a partial withdrawal. It was noted that Mr Arens is not involved directly in the leadership struggle, as he is not a Knesset member and therefore not eligible.

According to yesterday's Israeli report - all of which had been submitted for censorship - senior officers in the Chouf are worried that the latest delay will be used by Israel's many enemies in Lebanon to organize for a full-scale attack against the retreating Israeli armour.

The Israeli have taken elaborate precautions for what is considered the strong possibility of having to retreat under fire.

After Tuesday's decision to agree to what UN sources described as "very much a private visit" by the Secretary-General, both texts should have equal force.

Mr Maroudas denied that the Greek version was being reintro-

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It now appears that difficulties emerged over the Greek translation of the negotiated English text, especially because the Greek Government insists that both texts should have equal force.

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SPECTRUM

Still running with Rabbit.

In the 1950s, the people were all young and lived in couples. America was booming: "Purchasing power: young, newly powerful, born to consume." Give or take a disturbing affair of two, the couples were booming too. They lived in lofts in erotic lower Manhattan, poorish as junior executives or promising young writers are poor. But the museums were close, and there was always a bottle of wine with the lasagna. "Exhaust smoke, cigarette smoke, factory smoke, all romantic." The bomb loomed, the great cars puffed what later became pollution. But the times were good, the future promising and everyone got pregnant – as John Updike, who knew or was or invented these people, reminds us in his story "When Everyone Was Pregnant" (*Museums and Women*).

So the couples became threes and fours. Purchasing power increased. It became time to commute to and from the Connecticut or Massachusetts shoreline, where the New Haven railroad or the Boston-New York shuttle brought the neat serious men back to the sexy delicate women and the children on the beach. But not all went well with the couples, grave people living in "the twilight of the old morality". Growing up from the 1950s was not easy. On the edge of their lives, history sounded uneasy messages, the tragic sinking of the submarine Thresher, the Kennedy assassinations. Churches caught fire, ministers were mystified by their ministry.

And there were always the sexual ceremonial, bodily ascensions in pursuit of a carnal liturgy. (One reviewer once called Updike the pornographer of marriage.) Neighbourhood adulterous celebrants became involved. Though they went on believing in the magic aura of marriages and families, divorces came along. As gravely as they had tried the Jackson Pollock exhibitions and the Valpolicella, the couples tried them too. Uncoupled, they recoupled. Now around 50, they go on, the women stretch-marked but charming, the men still grave and anxious, unsure what history did to their charmed domestic world, yet still capable of delighting in it, and going on growing rich.

John Updike, who not only wrote *Couples* (1968) but many, many stories about these gracious pairs, is just over 50 himself. With his second wife, Martha, he has just been in Britain for a quick, jet-tagging visit to the Edinburgh Festival, which now has a book fair and a "Meet the Author" programme. He was interviewed by Frank Delaney, and read from his books, introducing a novel due next year. This brings his production to around 30, and the young prodigy is in wadage not so young. None the less, despite a distinguished greying of the hair, the angular good looks and the boyish east coast charm and gentleness remain as fresh and fine as ever. He seems himself like one of a good couple. What is more, he has evidently found the process of growing older from the 1950s quite vitalizing, despite the tempest of change and domestic upset on which many of his books toss.

But in any case the couples were only a small part of an enormous stock of invention, an extraordinarily varied list of books, the product of a graceful, stylish but very versatile mind. Yet somehow they seem very close to the heart of his work, a base-camp from which the others feel free to explore.

Updike was born, in 1932, in Shillington, Pennsylvania. This provided him with the "Olinger" country of his early stories, *The Same Door* (1959) and *Pigeon Feathers* (1962), a



The Times Profile: John Updike

fine myth-novel, very much marked, though, by the fact that round this date myth was the great sub-structure for everything. Since then there has been the world of "sexy" Manhattan, and then the "Tarbox" country, north of Boston, where the couples tend to live, as does Updike too.

Updike is something of a sacral aesthete himself. The early stories, like John O'Hara's, are set firmly in a Pennsylvania region, but this was not an O'Hara voice. Like Henry James, he was evidently after a sensuous education; and these tales of adolescent delicacy, looking in ordinary things for form, the Joycean epiphany, the illuminating revelation that lights up art and life at once. It would not have been hard to guess from them that his education had taken him to Harvard, where he studied English literature and worked on the Harvard *Lampoon*, nor that he had gone on from there to art school – in fact, on a Knox Fellowship to the Ruskin School in Oxford (indeed a story about dentistry in *The Same Door* celebrates this event). His hope was to be a cartoonist, but the stories and poems he wrote that year settled his fate. He was summoned from Ifley Road to the editorial staff of *The New Yorker*, a natural habitat for a writer of his finesse.

He worked for two years as a "Talk of the Town" reporter on that wonderful magazine, founded for style, sophistication, and Abercrombie and Fitch. A good part of his work has always appeared there, including his excellent reviews. The literary agents now said that, if you wanted to crack the magazine, you had to write like an Updike. Certainly, along with John Cheever, J. D.

Salinger and Donald Barthelme, he has been seen as the best of their modern finds. His writing had that special polish, that brilliance and on occasion over-brilliance of style, that fitted its pages. His antecedents were more Henry James or Edith Wharton than Hemingway, Faulkner, or Fitzgerald. The risk was that he could become an American equivalent to a British Hampshire novelist – socially knowing, stylistically charming, witty and self-limiting.

By the end of the 1950s, the beginning of the 1960s, the books were appearing in great profusion from the fine, carpentered poems of *The Carpentered Hen* (1958) on. There were novels, like *The Poorhouse Fair* (1959), story collections, children's books, gatherings of essays and reviews. The versatility was apparent, but this could have become enclosed space, especially since now, in the new mood of the 1960s, careful formalism began to crack. The talk was of black humour, absurdism, spontaneous prose, experimental reportage, and something called Postmodernism.

Philip Roth, the powerful Jewish-American writer whose career in some ways parallels Updike's own, marvelously atomizes the time in *My Life As a Man*. The moment was one of high literariness; all relationships were an aesthetic crisis. Girl friends turned into Isabel Archer or Anna Karenina, and one married for the moral strenuousness. Literature got us into this. Roth notes, and literature was going to have to get us out. Updike evidently recognized the tension too, and his work is the work of a survivor working through the artistic conflicts of American fiction through to the present.

Yet Updike did get out, or rather

amazingly extended his range, partly through some remarkable impersonations. There was, for example, *Rabbit, Run* in 1960, where he identifies with his *homme moyen sensuel*, "Rabbit" Angstrom, the ex-basketball player and entirely physical man who sets out, running, to lose his social and marital identity. At first this looked improbable Updike territory. But, like his friend and mentor, John Cheever, who surprised us by moving from his Wapshot world to the penitentiary of *Falconer*, Updike opened up not only his social landscape but his style. Rabbit has stayed with him ever since. Two more novels follow him onward and upward through commonplace American society to an ambiguous, late twentieth century form of heroism. Rabbit, in the middle of things, is rich.

Then there was *Bech*. It has always helped that Updike is a superb parodist, both a splendid and sympathetic literary critic and an artful stylistic impersonator. He grew fascinated by the dominance of the Jewish-American novel, and invented for himself an un-WASP surrogate in the hairy, promiscuous, slow-writing Jewish-American novelist Bech, who has grown used to being touted around hospitable campuses and festivals for his ethnic existential anguish and sexual aroma. *Bech: A Book* (1970) is a series of casually interlinked short stories about his Eastern European official tour. Subsequent visitors (I have been one) are regularly shown this Updike socialist landscape, as they are the Olinger country or Tarbox; here is the Romanian critic, there the Bulgarian poetess.

Perhaps the most striking impersonation of all comes in his brilliant *The*



JOHN HOYER UPDIKE

born: March 18 1932
educated: Harvard College
1954 Worked as journalist for the New York magazine
1958 Hoping for a Hoopoe (in America, The Carpentered Hen), poems
1959 The Poorhouse Fair; The Same Door
1960 Rabbit, Run
1962 Pigeon Feathers
1963 The Centaur
1965 Assorted Prose
1966 Of The Farm; The Music School
1968 Telephone Poems, poems; Couples
1969 Midpoint and other poems
1970 Bech: A Book
1972 Rabbit Redux
1973 Museums and Women
1974 Buchanan Dying, play
1975 The Month Standby
1976 Many Mice, Picked-Up Pictures
1977 Toeswing and Turning, poems
1979 The Coupl
1982 Rabbit Is Rich
1983 Bech Is Back

Coup (1979), where the narrator is Colonel Hakim Felix Elleiou, black dictator of the dry African state of Kush, who has been educated in the United States, and knows its wiles and corruptions. This is the most politically distanced of all Updike's novels, which usually take the realist's pleasure in the stuff of American reality. His books are uneasy celebrations of American life, troubled interplays between bright domestic interiors and dark history, which sense – like the couples themselves – that Grace has gone, but might be restored with aesthetic care and attention. They are a complex but large public; and Updike, too, is rich.

Updike's work had always walked carefully and seriously between familiar realism and the experimentalism that test it, between popularity and elaborate formal devotion. He not only knows but writes about the way in which the successful American writer is readily reduced to cozenage and imbecility. A new book of critical essays, *Hugging the Shore*, comes out soon, with a display of wide appreciation and a response to the most testing of our writers and critics: Italo Calvino, Muriel Spark, and the great American heritage of Melville and Hawthorne are among his subjects. In Edinburgh he aired a new novel which is neither Bech nor Rabbit. *The Witches of Eastwick*, set in the Vietnam period, should be out next year. Updike has been accused of sentimentalizing his women characters; he has tried here to challenge the view, which means challenging himself, the one thing his writing has always done. His survival has been made out of a rigorous artistic intelligence; and, in times when the contemporary American novel seems to have lost some of its glow and its direction, he is amongst the very best.

Malcolm Bradbury

Hugging the Shore will be published by Andre Deutsch in January, 1984.

moreover...
Miles Kington

Edinburgh
When John Drummond, the retiring director of the Edinburgh Festival, was asked to look back on his tenure, he said in all honesty that he had spent two days a week on artistic matters and five days a week worrying about money. This came as something of a surprise to most people; they imagined that, dealing with the Lothian District Council, he would have had to spend all seven worrying about money.

Lothian District Council are the people who, to celebrate the success of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, decided to cut the grant to the festival this year and make things even harder for it. Their stand stands at about half a million pounds; compared to the £20m brought into the city by festival visitors, or indeed the £13m voted by the city to the coming Commonwealth Games, this is what farmers call peanuts. Lothian District Council are also the people who have made Edinburgh the laughing stock of the art world by postponing the building of an open house for so long that all they have now is a hole in the ground. Sydney used to be famous for having an unfinished opera house; only Edinburgh can lay claim to having the world's fittest unstarted opera house.

To put it another way: Lothian District Council are doing their best single-handed to restore the myth of Scots meanness. When asked earlier this week what could be done to improve the festival, one visiting director said immediately: "Move it to Glasgow". I don't know if it is a coincidence, but I have seen lots of cars in Edinburgh with stickers reading "Glasgow Is Miles Better", and there was a troubled piece in Wednesday's *Glasgow Herald*, headed: "Can Edinburgh be saved from the shrivelled mind?" It was written by the editor of *The Scotsman*.

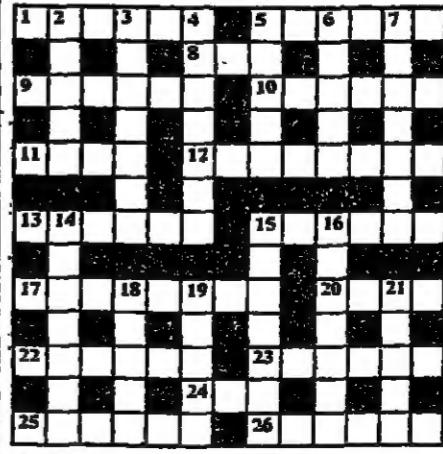
Now, I have never met the Lothian District Council personally – I always find hearsey so much more informative – but I would wager a few bob that they would not mind the festival moving to Glasgow. Oh, there might be a twinge of injured pride, but the relief of not having to deal with the demands of visiting artists would be immense. Opera companies who demand opera houses to play in. Theatre companies who would like to have decent backstage conditions.

What they would like to keep, I guess, is the Fringe. The Fringe, after all, gets no grant and pays for itself, yet brings in more paying customers than the official festival. It is the dream of all councils: something which brings prestige to the place but for which they do not have to shell out a bean. The hole in the ground where the opera house was going to be is this year filled with tents, housing something like 40 different companies, paid for by themselves.

In other words, where other cities throw open their opera houses and theatres to artistic visitors, Edinburgh says: "Come if you like, but bring your own building with you, because you won't get any help from us." Where Edinburgh used once to take pride in putting up fine stone buildings, it now has Portakabin mentality. Its ultimate achievement is the Tattoo, which takes place entirely in the open air and requires nothing except scaffolding for the audience to sit on and get wet in, if necessary.

Edinburgh is still a great place, of course. It's the people at the top that frighten me. Alastair Dunnett, in his *Glasgow Herald* piece, recalls that he once asked a new Lord Provost of Edinburgh how he would like to be remembered by posterity. The Lord Provost gazed silently across the magnificent panorama of the Athens of the North and then said with emotion: "As the man who solved the city's parking problem".

Vision, indeed. Mind you Edinburgh has not been known as the Athens of the North for a long time now. I get the feeling that if the Lothian District Council were to send an observer to Athens today, he would come back mightily impressed by the amount of progress they have made with the Parthenon. He might even, if very impressed, suggest the erection of a small canvas temple in Edinburgh. As long as somebody else paid.

CONCISE CROSSWORD
(No 138)

ACROSS:
1 Slow gallop (6)
5 Alter (6)
8 Epoch (3)
9 War fleet (6)
10 Celtic (6)
11 Nonsense (4)
12 Happening (8)
13 Indian tribe (6)
15 Paper (6)
17 Common person (6)
20 Swallow hastily (4)
21 Cook too long (6)
22 Public speaker (6)
24 And not (3)
25 Rain protector (6)
26 Of many colours (6)

DOWN:
2 Heart chambers (5)
3 Moving vehicles (7)
4 Become aware (7)
5 Mysterious power (5)
6 Anticipate fearfully (5)
7 Pretender (7)
14 Fuss (7)
15 Become similar (7)
16 Ramp (7)
18 Cupidine mineral (5)
19 Sarcasm (5)
21 Not confined (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 137
ACROSS: 1 Placid 4 Nicked 7 Cuth 3 Camp site 9 Soapstone 12 Old 15 Hearty 16 Meteor 17 Mat 19 Rhapsody 24 Spinter 25 Ramp 26 Compel 27 Dumb 28 Dumb
DOWN: 1 Prop 2 Astronaut 3 Ducks 4 Nomad 5 Cash 6 Extol 10 Pater 11 Specs 12 Overdriven 13 Dire 14 Wham 18 Appo 20 Hotel 21 Purge 22 Cup 23 Epic

Peter Waymark

Plastic is on the move

A significant step along the road towards a plastic car will be taken by General Motors in the United States next month when it launches a two-seater sports model, the Fiero. This will be one of the first mass produced cars from a big manufacturer to have a bodyshell of GRP (glass-reinforced plastic) instead of the usual steel and where General Motors leads, others are bound to follow.

Plastic bodied cars in themselves are nothing new. Small specialist companies in Britain like Lotus and Reliant have been using GRP for years but their bodies have been assembled and painted virtually by hand.

Plastic has two obvious advantages for cars. It is lighter than steel and, in the current quest for better fuel consumption, the saving of weight is one of the most important elements. Secondly it does not corrode, and after accident damage rust is the

biggest killer of a car. The problem has been adapting the manufacture and finish of plastic bodies to mass production. Now, with injection moulding techniques and the development of polyurethane paints that can be applied at temperatures low enough not to melt the plastic, the obstacles are being overcome.

Like the Lotus or Reliant, the GM Fiero still relies on a steel chassis for its strength and the completely plastic car is still far away. Meanwhile many plastic components are being introduced, which together can make a useful contribution to weight saving. Plastic bumpers, for instance, are becoming common on new cars (and they have the additional advantage of being able to absorb minor knocks without damaging the paintwork). Plastic fuel tanks are another area.

As for a plastic engine, we may see one in Formula 2 racing cars next year.

A company in New Jersey has produced an engine which is 90 per cent plastic and tough enough to withstand high temperatures. It is only half as heavy as a metal engine. The result is a fuel saving of 2½ per cent, but at the moment the engine is too expensive to produce to be a practical proposition for the average road car.

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BOOKS

Fiona MacCarthy reviews the biography of Vanessa Bell
Her will to keep on painting

Vanessa Bell
By Frances Spalding
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95)

They can keep *I Tatti*: by far the most alluring of the artistic ménages of the years between the wars was undoubtedly Charleston, the farmhouse in East Sussex where the presiding genius was Vanessa Bell, the painter, Virginia Woolf's sister, who lived there, off and on, with Duncan Grant for 40 years.

So convincingly relaxed is the familiar scene at Charleston, as depicted in a multitude of memories of Bloomsbury — Duncan and Vanessa at their easels, Virginia and Leonard calling in for tea, Clive Bell in a sunhat in a ruokki on the terrace, naked children running wild in the garden while upstairs in a bedroom Maynard Keynes sits composing *The Economic Consequences of Peace* — that one tends to forget the mechanics in the background, preventing Charleston lapsing into Fawlty Towers. This was Vanessa's so far underexposed talent. Vanessa ordered meals and gave instructions to the servants, to whom the charms of Charleston were not always so apparent (a nurse she once employed described it as "a washout"). Vanessa brought the flowers in and carried out, with Duncan, much of Charleston's idiosyncratic decoration. She in fact created that whole atmosphere of Charleston, which so strangely and uniquely smelled of turpentine and toast.

Vanessa Bell emerges from Frances Spalding's sensitive and scholarly biography as an unexpectedly formidable figure, just as interesting if not more so, than her sister. Her domestic powers of organization were remarkable, in that, seemingly without effort, she could transport her whole household and, give or take a week, recreate the Charleston life almost anywhere in Europe, followed by whole cohorts of friends and hangers-on the Bloomsbury Group peregrinations are amazing. And her domestic energies were manifold. Her amatory management was still more adept. For many, many years, practically for a lifetime, her husband, her ex-lover Roger Fry, and Duncan, the man she loved, a homosexual, remained friends and stayed within her own orbit. No mean feat.

What Vanessa Bell created with such fervour, she protected. Her household at Charleston was, like Eric Gill's not far away at Ditchling, prone to unexpected visitors, especially in summer. These she fiercely kept at bay, even going so far as to erect an OUT sign at the end of the track which led to Charleston. Those who were IN at Charleston presumably would realize the sign had been erected for everyone but them.

"How much I admire this handling of life," said Virginia Woolf one day, in the rather gushing tone she often used about her sister, on whom she both doted and depended. Compared with Virginia, Vanessa's life was certainly in some ways more ambitious, more fecund, more complete.



Vanessa Bell painted by Roger Fry, 1911

Despite husband, lovers, children, throughout all the complexities and fascinations of life at Charleston, with immense determination, even a certain ruthlessness, "an attitude more common in the 1930s than 1920s", she cleared the time to what the OUT sign went up for herself as much as Duncan. Her will to keep on painting, as described by Frances Spalding as a steel rod which ran right through her, from which she would not and could not be deflected. This aspect of her life, on which Dr Spalding also Fry's biographer, writes with great insight and authority, is impressive in itself and particularly interesting at this period of major reassessment of her work.

This biography is very long and very detailed, and at times it suffers from what one might call the Virginia Woolf Sponge Bag syndrome. ("When the ladies left for a holiday in Spain in March 1905, she forgot her sponge bag," see p.56.) No one will agree with all interpretations of all the minor characters, or even of the major ones: the view of Duncan Grant as almost the epitome of carefree promiscuity is, I feel, particularly questionable. But the central portrait of Vanessa Bell is full and generous and it rings wonderfully true.

A compelling and an infinitely enigmatic woman whose only boring feature, as it now seems, was her bawdy, nothing dating quite so badly as another era's lewdness. But even those charades they played on "sodomy" and "passion" have an awful period poignancy of sorts.

Fiction

The loyalties worth dying for: innocents abroad and at sea

Brothers
By Bernice Rubens
(Hamish Hamilton, £8.95)

The Proprietor
By Ann Schlee
(Macmillan, £8.95)

Belgravia
By Charlotte Bingham
(Michael Joseph, £7.95)

Bernice Rubens is too shy a writer not to tempt her reader into Russia 1825 without a touch of irony. And the novel is quirky with uneasy questions throughout. The litany of survival, which runs throughout the novel, rises from sensible advice given to children

recruited for the Tsar's army before their twelfth birthday. In content, it is sound, even in rabid terms. The more insidious, lessodic children, disappearing in the quicksilver, point up the wisdom of the Bindes tradition: the only loyalty which dyes for art, that of friendship and love. It is a family which may not be buried however for the Bindes travel from Odessa to Wales, the United States or Germany. Brothers are what all should be, but Jews are by no means the only group to find themselves excluded from that brotherhood.

And it is when we come to the settlement of the Bindes in Germany, that the proposition, survive at any cost, is put to the necessary test. At whose cost, to begin with, and finally, mephistoically, what can give importance to such a survival?

The Nazis left no possibility of ordinary accommodation. There was no immersion in holy water; no change of name; even world service to the imperial crown was unhelpful. To survive, the crimes to be committed were so ugly that it is hard to accept the litany of survival any longer as innocent. It is Bernice Rubens's extraordinary achievement to take us beyond that anxiety into the logic of international communism and Soviet Russia; to bring the novel back to its true starting point.

Those who found Ann Schlee's *Rhine Journey* at once fascinating

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Elaine Feinstein

Treason's Harbour
By Patrick O'Brian
(Collins, £7.95)

There was no shortage of applicants for Horatio Hornblower's berth when C. S. Forester died in 1966. Dudley Pope's Lord Ramage and Alexander Kent's Bolitho took to the high seas in fairly short order; and C. Northcote Parkinson commissioned Richard Delaney, after first stripping away the did-be-fall-over-he-pushed fascinations of Hornblower with a volume of blunt solutions to each of the little mysteries Forester left behind.

Pope, Kent and Parkinson are all first-class naval constructors, plonkable to a man, adept at bucking every smash in sight. But note howl Hornblower below the waterline.

Then, suddenly, Patrick O'Brian's Jack Aubrey was hull-up over the horizon and all was changed.

Aubrey is overweight, only slightly heroic, has been pursued by debt collectors, has family relations more typical than ideal, is prone to extorting blackmail, and has a seagoing medical friend called Admiralty spy who is no less engagingly frayed. His socks smell, his clothes are grubby, and the two of them tickle, sit, friends, in close confinement must frangues more readily, skin, irresistibly, in Nelson's day than any of their fictional contemporaries.

Aubrey and Dr Maturin are men to believe in as they come to terms with their comfortable flaws against an exceedingly accurate Maltese backdrop in this, the ninth Aubrey novel. More power to your yardarm, Mr O'Brian.

Frank Peters

In other hands this would become the driest of sentiments, but Calvino's lucid prose gives these stories the clarity and objectivity of fables. He is best known for his more self-conscious and apparently "literary" novels, in which by parody or elaboration he creates a number of linguistic "worlds" which succeed each other like slides in a museum exhibition. But it is clear from this little volume that the source of his inspiration is not really literary at all: Marcovaldo, too, sees different worlds because he cannot endure the inflictions of the one in which he is forced to dwell. Calvino has given his hero the imagination of an artist — the kind of artist Calvino himself.

And here Dr Maturin are men to believe in as they come to terms with their comfortable flaws against an exceedingly accurate Maltese backdrop in this, the ninth Aubrey novel. More power to your yardarm, Mr O'Brian.

Peter Ackroyd

Novelist as critic

Diversity and Depth in Fiction

Selected Critical Writings of Angus Wilson

Edited by Kerry McSweeney

(Secker & Warburg, £15)

The skills of the critic and of the novelist are as different as those of the map-maker and the landscape painter; it is a rare thing if the two are combined in a single genius. One thinks of the terrible piffling Tolstoy wrote about Shakespeare, or of Tristam's disappointing book about Thackeray.

Sir Angus Wilson, however, as well as being one of the few post-war English novelists to come close to being "a great writer", has always been an astutely catholic critic of literature. His book on Zola antedating his first novel by two years. One reads his books on Dickens and Kipling, not merely as literary biographies, but for the illumination they throw on the art of fiction itself: how it works. We can be glad, then, that in the year of his seventieth birthday, his publishers have commissioned a nosology of his occasional essays and lectures.

That is not to say that Sir Angus's best criticism is merely impressionistic; rather, that, because he does write as an experienced and deft practitioner, he is able to show how evil, comedy, and passion can only be analysed in fiction by coming to grips with the purely technical problems of their presentation. An example of this is to be found in his extraordinarily intuitive exposition of Meredith's *The Egoli*, in which he shows that the triumph of Sir Willoughby's character, as a work of art, comes about precisely because Meredith departed from his pompous view that "the test of true comedy is that it shall awaken thoughtful laughter"; and that the greatness of Meredith is to be found more in his anarchic tight-rope walk between farce and pathos than in his epigrammatic and descriptive poses, so much admired by the Victorians.

A short review can not do justice to the most stimulating quality of Sir Angus's criticism, which is his expansive range. When we read these essays, we are not only inspired to turn back to Proust, Dickens, Zola, and Stendhal, but also to try such forgotten minor masterpieces as Sheila Kaye-Smith's *Joanna Godden*. He writes somewhere that some of the greatest literary criticism has come from the practitioner, from the depth of his experience. Yet I am not inclined to suppose that a novelist is likely to have the abstracting sort of mind which will allow him to advance broad general theories of any particular merit." Precisely. The "broad general theories" come alive in this book when he writes freely from "the depth of his experience". When he is being a critic on a rostrum, he can write of Jane Austen. "The extremes of religious feeling as the extremes of evil passion she probably avoided. Yet one is still forced to

A. N. Wilson

Founding father or sly colonial boy

Benjamin Franklin

By Ronald W. Clark

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.50)

Benjamin Franklin has never been an easy man to like. From the 1720s, when he slipped out of his indentures as a printer's apprentice, to the time of the American War of Independence when he spent his time philandering with society ladies instead of concentrating on his job as Congress's ambassador in Paris, Franklin always had his eye on the main chance. As a businessman he was the embodiment of the profit motive and he used his political position to enrich himself and his family. Yet he composed (and plagiarized) a host of priggish maxims on themes like "virtue is its own reward" and "honesty is the best policy". These were, as Mark Twain said, "full of animosity towards boys" — generations of whom were made to learn the wretched things.

Ronald W. Clark does not damn Franklin as a hypocritical exponent of middle-class morality any more than he praises him as "the first civilized American". He takes a properly detached view of his subject, setting him firmly in the context of an age when utilitarian ethics were fashionable and it was frowned on not to marry money. Indeed Clark's life of Franklin is just what one would expect from such an accomplished biographer: it is a good solid study based on original sources and it is particularly strong on Franklin's scientific work.

As Balzac said, Franklin invented not only the lightning rod and the republic but the hoax. His liveliest writing consists of spoofs designed to explode contemporary cant. For instance he ridiculed the prize questions asked by learned academies by proposing the discovery of "some Drug, wholesome and not disagreeable, to be mixed with our common Food, or Sauces, that shall render the natural discharges from our Bodies not only inoffensive, but agreeable as Perfumes". His advice that young men should take old mistresses ("they are so graceful!") is the most famous example of this brand of humour.

Clark shows that, like Darwin after him, Franklin was oddly vague about the details of his research. He was a "professional amateur" who twice nearly electrocuted himself during experiments. Not that Franklin was impractical; his invention of the lightning conductor testifies to his talent for finding useful applications for his discoveries. But his genius was for synthesis of a pure sort. Hence his momentous revelation that electricity and lightning are one.

It was this which made Franklin famous by 1750 and led to his being sent to represent the colonists in Europe. His main task was to prevent Britain taxing the Americans and he was given credit (mostly undeserved) for the repeal of the Stamp Act. Needless to say his efforts to stop the drift towards war were hopeless. He was perhaps too conciliatory to be a truly effective diplomat. He loved England and (though Clark does not say so) he seems to have established another ménage in London. At any rate he effectively deserted his long-suffering Pennsylvania wife, whom he pre-

Donkey Work
By Edward Blishen

(Hamish Hamilton, £8.95)

the incompetent headmaster "who should have been forbidden by Act of Parliament to approach within a mile of any educational scene", about the boy he cured of lying ("Well, you always believed everything I said. So after a time I thought, 'What's the use?'"). It is an embroidered account of fact interwoven with the fiction of his imagination. Extracts from the letters of his great-great-uncle writing from Canada and the Crimea where he died at Sebastopol are run concurrently with Blishen's own tale. His imagery has a Dickensian touch: his house was afflicted by dry rot: "It wept in infinite sodden grey coils and banks. A building we saw, could sob itself to death."

Yet there is evidence of the donkey braying. He paints himself too easily as a figure of fun, a silly ass. There is a self-indulgence, and self-absorption. The charm of autobiography is in the host of other people you meet besides the author. It would have been interesting to learn more about the old Labour Party, Richard Crossman and Jim Griffiths, than the account of a weekend conference on education at Cleator discloses. And why should he be so annoyingly coy about identifying the inhospitable cathedral city, or the new university he calls Ribchester? Such reticence makes one long for the abrasive honesty of A. J. P. Taylor.

Brian Martin

Muirdrach's Cross at Monasterboice, one of the oldest and finest Celtic crosses in the British Isles. From *The Beauty of Britain*, by Edmund Swinburn (Hamlyn, £25.95). Monasterboice, in the south of Louth in the Boyne valley on the borders of County Meath, is a quiet place notable for the ruins of a monastic community said to have been founded by St Brigitte towards the end of the fifth century.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Standstill

The Greater London Council's difficulties in mounting an exhibition at this year's Conservative conference to protest at plans for its abolition worsened yesterday. Banned by Conservative Central Office from the Blackpool Winter Gardens - for fear of vandalism by Tory thugs, GLC spokesmen suggest - the council had taken space in the adjacent shopping centre, Hounds Hill, which is owned by the Laing property group, generous contributors to Tory party funds. Yesterday Ken Livingstone's office heard that Laing had banned the GLC stand from Hounds Hill, both during the Conservative conference and the earlier TUC meeting. The GLC is now investigating the possibility of suing Laing for breach of contract and searching for another site.

Concert deal

PHS has discovered in Edinburgh the most extraordinary artefact of Vienna 1900, the festival theme, not to be exhibited there. It is an art nouveau set of playing cards designed by the composer Arnold Schoenberg for use with his friends. The pack comes complete with an imaginary dialogue devised by Schoenberg between Napoleon and one of his aides in which they debate how the emperor can win at roulette. The composer's daughter, Vera Schoenberg-None, says the cards demonstrate the remarkable craftsmanship her father applied to everything he did. Efforts are now being made to rush a few packs into concert-hall bookshops for music lovers to use while queuing.

A man stabbed by his wife when he returned home from a drinking bout told Inner London Crown Court last week: "I now have a great deal of respect for my wife, which I did not have previously."

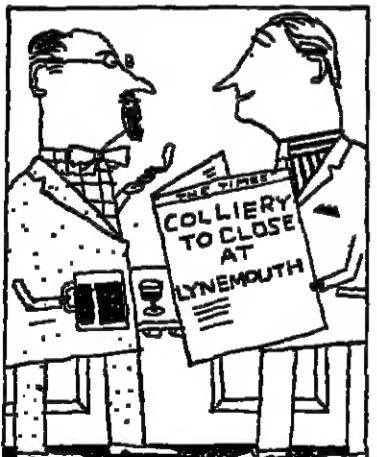
Gulpers

One of the English wines for which an exceptional vintage is predicted this year is called Downers. This less than encouraging name derives, I suppose, from the fact that it comes from the Sussex Downs and, at £3.45 to £3.85 a bottle, should not leave you on your uppers. It could be worse. The lane in which the vineyard is situated is called Clappers.

Bedtime story

How hot are you in bed? A survey carried out for a firm who make electric blankets has revealed that only three couples in a hundred are completely compatible about the amount of bedding they require. The cold person, they say, is usually the female, for whom compromise entails wrapping up extra rug, bed socks and such. I regret to confirm that this is the case with Mrs PHS.

BARRY FANTONI



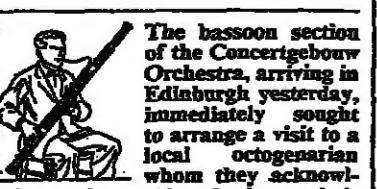
"They could always sell the name to a cheese manufacturer"

Shell guide

Potted geraniums and mint are effective fly deterrents, and marigolds absorb cooking smells, says *The Country Housewife*, published today by Hodder and Stoughton. That's fine, but I am more sceptical about the old wives' cure for consumption: boil 30 snails and a handful of daisies in water and take a spoonful with milk daily.

Hot under collar

I have been taken to task for my less than positive attitude towards negative ions and the gadgets that generate them. A spokesperson for a firm that makes ionizers points out that they are offered to sufferers from respiratory complaints for a trial period on a money-back basis; letters from readers plagued with bronchitis and hay fever have claimed that an ionizer made a difference; and several colleagues with asthmatic children have seen a striking improvement in the frequency and severity of attacks. Nicholas Blacklock of the D'Artagnan restaurant swears his ionizer helps keep customers and waiters from getting snappy. I have installed the original ionizer in my bedroom in the hope that it might do the same for me.



PHS

Reagan's right - and duty

Eugene Rostow, until last January chief US disarmament negotiator, draws a distinction between support for the government of El Salvador and Cuban backing for the guerrillas

government of Chad is universally considered aggression, whereas French and US help to the government of Chad is considered normal.

These rules of international law, reaffirmed in the United Nations Charter, reflect the nature of states, and conditions necessary for their cooperation in the hazardous environment of the state system. Many international commissions have attempted to establish exceptions to the rules in order to legitimize international use of force on behalf of causes to which particular states are attached - notably "socialism", "national liberation" and "self-determination". These efforts have failed because no state will support a rule that might be invoked to restrict its right of collective self-defence or to justify a guerrilla attack from a neighbour's territory against defence ministries.

Thus, during Biafra's attempted secession from Nigeria, the world community treated aid to Biafra as obviously illegal, while international military support for Nigeria was accepted as obviously proper. Similarly, Libya's assistance to rebels against the

interest. International law does not protect the "status quo", it establishes procedures for encouraging peaceful change. It says nothing about the right of a people to revolt against tyranny. It deals only with the international use of force, and it protects Poland and East Germany as categorically as it protects El Salvador and South Korea.

Apart from the various applications of the Brezhnev Doctrine, before which the West has stood mute, there has been only one deviation from the pattern of conduct sketched by these rules in modern times: the "non-intervention" policy that assured destruction of the Spanish Republic. The leaders of Cuba and Nicaragua take a leaf from the book of Hitler and Mussolini: during the mid-1930s Hitler and Mussolini sent military supplies and their troops to assist Franco. This was open aggression against Spain. Other western nations were legally entitled to help Spain defend itself against the revolution but did not, hoping to appease Hitler and Mussolini.

The US must not consider repeating the mistake it made by supporting the "non-intervention" policy for Spain. It should never again abandon the rules of international law that condemn aggression and uphold states' right of individual and collective self-defence. The most fundamental goal of US foreign policy - achievement of a just, stable world order - will be beyond reach until the rules on the international use of force are generally and reciprocally observed.

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On a day of Polish protest, the same old refusal to listen

When will Jaruzelski heed the lesson of Gdansk?



Mieczyslaw Rakowski: catcalls and heckling as he addressed the Gdansk shipworkers

Solidarity's idea of dialogue in effect means the first step to taking over power. Solidarity maintains that dialogue as "consultation" is the death knell of an independent union movement guaranteed by the government when it signed the Gdansk agreement in August 1980.

This unbridgeable gap has produced a crisis in the thinking and operation of the Solidarity underground. Under severe pressure from the authorities, its leadership has made a number of important tactical errors - including the unrealistic call for a general strike and, more recently, an industrial go-slow - which were based on the misapprehension that it was possible somehow to force the government into talks.

By concentrating on swift dramatic protests - above all demonstrations - it has had to rely to a large degree on students, disaffected professionals and even adventurous sixth-formers rather than on workers. Solidarity cells in factories have shrivelled - apart from the large ones in Gdansk and Nowa Huta - and underground factory coordinating committees have frequently been penetrated by the security services. Solidarity is still respected by the workers but there is a realistic assessment of the

substantial risk involved in return for a minimal gain.

In yesterday's protests marking the anniversary of the agreement, workers boycotted public transport and thousands attended mass. But it is clear that protests will not reform the government and will not, except for a small minority of young people, radicalize the population.

Critics within Solidarity say that the Gdansk anniversary should be the occasion for a major overhaul of strategy: workers should again become the main object of the organization and that Solidarity supporters should build up cells in the factories even if they confine themselves, in the first instance, to collecting money for political prisoners and printing simple but reliable information bulletins.

The Solidarity strategists believe

now that they must exalt the virtues of patience. One of the first incidents of industrial discontent since the lifting of martial law - a work stoppage at the FSO car factory over holiday pay - clearly showed that the new government-sponsored trade unions are not carrying out even their basic functions effectively, are not even acting as a transmission belt of information from managers to workers. Influential voices in the underground thus

say: wait for the sham unions to collapse, then worker discontent will again mount and Solidarity should be prepared for this.

Whether the Solidarity planners are living in any more of a dream world than the government remains to be seen. Certainly the government is behaving as if Solidarity is dead (it was formally banned in October 1982) and deducing from this that there is no worker discontent in the country. As long as it talks only to the pro-government trade unions and "patriotic associations" of communists and sympathetic non-communists then it will continue to believe that it is on the right course. That is a direct route to a new popular explosion of unrest: banning an organization that expresses grievances honestly and openly does not remove those grievances.

The Gdansk agreement was the result of more than a month of strikes and years of discontent over housing, health, wages, work safety, pensions and the privileges of the party leadership. Perhaps it has one lasting message to both the government and the clandestine Solidarity resistance: talk to the workers, and above all listen to them.

Roger Boyes

Telecom battle: lining up for round two

The Government's determination to cut back the size and influence of state industries is seen by many public sector unions as the biggest threat they are likely to face in the next five years. The first big test of strength between the two sides has arisen through the campaign being waged against the sell-off of British Telecom.

Six unions combined, at a cost of £500,000, to fight the first Telecommunications Bill and the Commons debate on the measure ran out of time when Mrs Thatcher called the general election, and now the unions are restaging the second Bill. But this time a new element has entered the contest.

The biggest union, the Post Office Engineering Union (POEU), is waging a guerrilla campaign aimed at blocking completion of the new private sector Mercury network to British Telecom circuits and cabling. That the union's action could come close to breaching employment legislation has not gone unnoticed in Whitehall or by employers.

Extra bite has been given to the POEU campaign since the union's executive swung to the left in June. One of the new leadership's first acts was to ensure that the conference policy of industrial action against Mercury was implemented.

Managers have so far been able to connect BT equipment and the fledgling Mercury network, whose object is to win a lucrative business market, although it is restricted to an annual turnover equivalent to only 3 per cent of BT's business. The union is seeking support from

unions representing employees of British Rail and local authorities whose cooperation Mercury will need to lay cables linking the main cities and large towns. Once these cables are in place, the unions fear that connexions with BT circuits will become permanent, enabling BT to "cream off" easy profits.

Indeed, telephone engineers in the City, who professed to be typical of the majority of a POEU membership that is reluctant to take industrial action, made it clear in telephone conversations with *The Times* that the prospect of Mercury riding on BT's back to win the corporation's most profitable business has united members of all political persuasions. These engineers had no objection in 1981 to the principle of privatization or the breaking of the telecommunications monopoly, but they demanded that compensation must be fair. They also said they were not happy that Mercury was offering salaries about £1,000 a year above BT levels, with two-year contracts and a company car.

Political opposition by the union to privatization is likely to be one of the main issues at next week's TUC Congress in Blackpool, when it will be argued that denationalization would lead to job losses. The worst estimate of the effect on BT is that 100,000 of the corporation's 240,000 jobs would disappear. It is also held that services would deteriorate with the introduction of private capital seeking a substantial return on investment.

The six BT unions believe a substantial body of opinion among Tory MPs and peers is worried about the impact of privatization on the loss-making services in country areas, and that this concern will be mobilized against the Bill during the committee stages, which start in October.

The Government's clear intention not to be diverted from denationalizing BT leads some union officials privately to rate their chances of success as low, but they point to the climb-down by the Government on the sale of gas showrooms as evidence that minds can be changed.

However, with a flotation of 51 per cent of BT likely to raise about £4,000m, the six telecommunication unions realize that once again they will have to dig deep in their coffers to finance the present campaign.

There will possibly be further industrial action against the Bill as it goes through Parliament, but irrespective of the wider issues the POEU maintains that its "blocking" of Mercury will continue and that it will never cooperate with the private sector.

A £1-a-week levy of all POEU members is expected to raise more than £1m by October as a fund to enable members on strike to take home their normal pay. The guerrilla tactics of pulling out on strike small key groups is likely to continue, but the real test will come if the law is invoked against the union.

David Felton
Labour Correspondent

Simon Jenkins

Paying the price of rural ruin

I always loved cities and found the countryside dull. I suppose it was sheer exhilaration. Britain's cities seemed the cockpits in which continuity and change fought for the soul of British politics. As for their architecture, continuity had mercifully emerged the (partial) victor. Bath and Chester, Edinburgh and York, Beaufort and Covent Garden are its battle honours, together with thousands of streets and districts protected from insensitive development. This, I assumed, should take precedence over the quiet round of country seasons.

Yet now that the fight for adequate laws on urban conservation is won, how should the townsman react to the sudden upheaval in the politics of the countryside? What can the urban conservationist say to his embattled rural counterpart?

The first thing must be, may heaven lend strength to your arm. After a summer of extended trips through the English and Scottish countryside - my first for a decade - I returned as appalled as other recent *Times* correspondents at what modern agriculture is doing to the landscape. From Cornwall through the Midlands and East Anglia to the Pennines and the Highlands of Scotland, a blight seems to be descending, grimly similar to that which afflicted British cities in the 1930s and 1940s. It is a blight caused by insensitivity, subsidy and inappropriate scales. A hillside which I once knew to have four fields, divided by hedgerows and lines of trees, is now bulldozed to make one. Earth-moving equipment of a sort once confined to open-cast mining and motorway building is now used to wipe from the map footpaths, hedges, trees, copses, cottages, yards, streams, buildings and houses which discriminated against conservation in favour of new buildings; local authorities whose extravagance was matched pound for pound by Whitehall. Shortcomings there may still be, but Britain now has building conservation laws which are the envy of the world.

Some of our national parks, even some of our forests (under a now more sensitive Forestry Commission) prove what constructive rural conservation might yet achieve, but elsewhere, subsidized destruction is the order of the day. Countryside planning still lacks the clout of laws to enforce environmental protection without compensation.

Last year's legislation on sites of special scientific interest, granting compensation to any landowner who even threatens environmental destruction, is a carbon copy of a 1932 planning act on historic buildings. It was passed by a farmer-dominated cabinet - rather like giving a group of landlords free rein with the Rent Act. It is half a century since we thought of paying the Duke of Westminster an annual "rent" for not demolishing Belgrave Square.

One day, I am sure, our children will castigate us for allowing the bulldozer and the accountants unrestrained sovereignty over the countryside, as now we deplore the post-war urban clearances. There is, however, something we can do. Mr Nigel Lawson might at least stop using our money to fund this destruction.

The author is political editor of *The Economist*.

Peter Black

Riding away in my convertible asset

We have been riding about the neighbourhood incognito during recent weeks. I sold the blue Beetle convertible by which folks had learned to recognize us; they do not yet automatically associate us with the new car. The sale said something of great interest about the motor industry.

Convertibles are not what they used to be since the introduction of the anti-roll bar, a nannyish device which spoils the clean line and, by raising the centre of gravity, may make a roll-over rather more likely than less. It also suggests prudence, not the most conspicuous of a convertible's motivations.

But any convertible is better than no convertible. So I welcome Ford's announcement that it is adding an open-top Escort to the range of open-top cars made by Fiat, VW and Vauxhall. I suppose it is too much to hope they will put the clock back further and reintroduce some of the fine models of the 1950s. Then you could choose between half a dozen makes, most of them the classic coupé de ville type; the hood could be folded and locked halfway back thus shielding the front seats from those destroying backdrifts; or the hood dropped out of sight into a recess.

They cost a little more than the saloon. They died because the demand was constant but outside

the mass market which mass production had to fill. I had several cars of this sort. "Tiens!" French garagistes would cry. "Il faut s'agir de quelque star de pop!" But by 1973, when my last Hillman Minx was coming up to its inards, the only family open car in production was the Karmann Ghia version of the Beetle. (I am not discussing sports cars, a different breed altogether).

It seemed absurd to pay £1,700 for a Beetle, but, as often happens, the apparently rash act turned out to be a brilliant commercial stroke. VW soon stopped making Beetles. My car became a collector's piece and began to emphasize a truth about motoring. Most of us would rather have an open car; the appeal

is fundamental, however frustrated by prudence. Convertibles console the attractive side of human character that gets a hard time, the part that never grows up, never stops expecting something marvelous to happen, is never reconciled to routine and conformity.

I built up quite a collection of notes stuck under the windscreen wipers. "If you ever want to sell, please phone..." Once a beautiful woman carrying a baby in her arms ran to me as I was buying petrol. "Would you do something for me?" she cried. "Anything." I replied. "Can I give you my husband's card? He's dotty about Beetles."

I took the car to the Continent several times, in fact, and ourselves by reflection, attracted envy and admiration. It was amazingly reliable. The time between the turning of the ignition key and the firing of the engine could be measured only by comparing it with the interval between the accidental shunting of the door on the tail of a cat and the angry outburst of that same cat.

After 10 years it had covered 44,000 miles. Then the Suezshift gear began to give an uncertain sound. It is a good, dull rule to sell an old car once it begins to make noise. I telephoned the number of the young mother who had given me "What a pity, I've just bought one," her husband said. "How much did you want for it?" "No idea." "You'll get three and a quarter."

Thus it fell out. I made a profit of 50 per cent and could have sold it three times over. True, the 1983 pound is worth half its 1973 value; even so, I got my money back and had 10 years' value out of the car as well. It was a notable triumph for the romantic and adventurous temperament over common sense and caution.

But it would not have been possible without the co-operation of the motor industry, which created and maintained the maturity in the teeth of evidence of a demand.



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OUT OF TOUCH

Sombre rallying-calls issue from the leaders of the TUC as delegates to Congress prepare to meet in Blackpool next week for the first great gathering of the Labour movement since the general election. Mr Clive Jenkins has lamented "quite irretrievable" changes in the social landscape, and predicted five years of trauma; Mr David Bassett has warned that the unions can no longer count on Labour as a regularly alternating party of government; and yesterday Mr Gavin Laird urged Congress not to shirk asking itself why most union members rejected Labour in the election.

A body not normally given to self-doubt, Congress would need a quite supernatural insensibility not to be afflicted by it this year. Unemployment, which has spared the membership and influence of the unions, is expected to rise yet further; there are alarming signs that membership is now declining even faster than unemployment by itself can explain. With a fresh mandate, the Government is preparing legislation which may profoundly alter the balance of power within unions, and perhaps the financial resources of the Labour party. The forces that threaten to supplant Labour in politics seem in some ways even less sympathetic to the claims of the unions than the Tories are.

Many delegates are already concerned about all this: Mr Laird referred to the "unusual phenomenon of the appearance in the agenda of draft resolutions that frankly acknowledge the

sides" while to talk it fosters a sense of reality in both. It is those who reject it who are out of touch with the historic spirit of the movement.

The loss of contact between leaders and led has several causes, not least the readiness of members to elect representatives who seem likely to fight effectively for their immediate interests, regardless of their broader political views. But the main cause of the alienation is the weakness of the unions' own procedures for finding out what their members really think. The injured bewilderment of many utterances by union leaders since the election shows how morally debilitating it is to be in command without an inkling that one's followers have deserted the traditional allegiance of the majority. One last fling of resistance is likely to the newly-reformed system for elections to the General Council, which will diminish the patronage of the largest unions - patronage exercised, in recent years at least, to the advantage of the left. There will also be bitter resistance to the resumption of contacts with Mr Norman Tebbit.

There is a possibility of Congress losing itself (and the rest of the public) in ferocious procedural manoeuvres over these issues as an alternative to grappling with the problems which threaten the movement and its ability to serve its members. The healthy thrust of pragmatism, which led it in its early years to set up a political party to represent it where laws are made, also dictates the maintenance of civilized dialogue with the government of the day, however unsympathetic - and, indeed, with all major political parties. It is worth both

HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY OF ROME

Pope John Paul II is not the first pontiff to find the Jesuits difficult to handle. His attempts to control them, though well short of the radical solution of Pope Clement XIV, have generated a sense of crisis in the order to which its General Congregation, opening today in Rome, will have to find a remedy.

As in 1773, the year Clement suppressed them, secular politics have more to do with the crisis than theology. The present Pope appears to be alarmed by the political tinge which some activists of the Society of Jesus sometimes take on, particularly in Central and South America. The tinge may look redder in Rome than it really is, but there is no doubt the society has put its shoulder behind the amputation of the lot of the masses through social and economic reform, which brings it into collision with powerful vested interests. It would be a mistake to assume, however, that the Pope is merely acting on behalf of those conservative forces, or that he is seeking to apply to the Jesuits some arbitrary and dualistic distinction between the spiritual and material needs of those they minister to, so as to confine them to the former. There is a theological issue behind the crisis, but it is not that one.

The Society of Jesus was the Roman Catholic Church's most dramatic and effective response to the Reformation. Its spirituality cultivated the absolute dedication of mind, body, and soul to God and the church, producing a new breed of priests who would live very much in the world and if necessary die for their faith, as many of them did (not least in England). This high octane and potentially explosive force had to be integrated into

the church's hierarchical structure, which was achieved, with characteristic absoluteness, by means of a personal vow of obedience to the pope. Consequently any difficulties in the society are the pope's responsibility in a special way, beyond his normal oversight of the local Jesuits. The bishops are liable to be more conservative, but theirs is the responsibility for bringing the church through the fire which always threatens to engulf it. The Jesuits are the light of the church.

In the Counter-Reformation church, and particularly its eventual form the ultramontane church, this pattern was comfortably in line with the current theology of the papacy. If the pope was universal ruler of the church, and the bishops little more than his deputies on the spot, the direct line between the Jesuits and Rome was one of many. But things have changed, and it is ironic that Jesuit theologians were among the influences which changed them.

The post-conciliar church has an extra dimension, as a federation of local and regional churches united in communion with one another and with the church at Rome. Bishops were restored to their apostolic dignity by the Second Vatican Council, and all over the world wish to be masters in their own households. They can command the obedience of their own clergy, but what of the Society of Jesus, and what happens when the bishops, acting as "the local church", pursue policies with different emphases from that of the local organs of the society? They complain to the man the Jesuits are ultimately answerable to, the Pope.

He is said to have a large file on his desk of such material,

county council was wrong to make its intentions to create VTS places known through the Careers Service to young people before the local area board had approved them. The county council was not to know that the trade unions' stubborn insistence on the rate for the job would have the effect of sabotaging an important contribution towards youth training, which, incidentally, would have given a large number of school leavers a better hope of future employment.

Mr Lewis says politics should be kept out of jobs for school leavers. Would he include the politics of the unions who have killed this scheme, which clearly he shares?

Yours faithfully,
R. H. B. NEAME, Leader,
Kent County Council, County Hall,
Maidstone, Kent.

Body and mind

From Mr Peter Davies
Sir, Dr J. W. Pauley (August 24) refers to lack of appreciation of psychosomatic factors in illness by practitioners in the NHS implying that as many practitioners of alternative medicine, that most diseases are due to the influence of the mind on the body. While the mind necessarily influences the body it is also true that the body has a great influence on the mind.

There are numbers of patients with incipient gangrene of the legs due to blocked arteries, a state inevitably leading to loss of the limb either by natural processes or surgical amputation. These patients may have "diseases" and are in pain; their mental state is poor; they are

Export-led boom not so simple

From Mr Bernard M. Dembo

Sir, Having spent many years selling British engineering overseas, I am not at all surprised by the continued fall in exports, only that anything else should be expected, even by political optimists.

To sell, it is necessary to be competitive on specification, quality, delivery and price. All of these are a function of volume of production. If you are doing well and fully covering your overheads at home you can export profitably at a low marginal price. If you and everyone else is short of money and interest rates are high, then both you and your suppliers will have run down stocks of raw materials and parts, so that even if you have little work on hand you cannot offer a quick delivery.

To cut costs you have probably rationalised your product line, which means that you can less often meet a precise specification than your competitors or have to offer a less carefully tailored and hence less economic model. These problems affect morale, and hence quality.

Finally, British manufacturers can no longer finance the long-term technical selling effort needed in most parts of the world in the face of deferred purchases as well as intense competition.

To look for an export-led boom in a free economy is therefore absurd. We must either get the home economy going again first, or let real wages drift downwards towards an abysmal competitive level, or probably as an inevitable result of the latter adopt a strictly controlled economy with non-convertible currency in which export prices are heavily subsidised and bear little relation to the costs of production.

Every competent overseas salesman knows that in the battle to export, the enemies to be feared are those at home.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD DEMBO,
52 Laburnum Road,
Maidenhead, Berkshire.
August 23.

These matters might be met on a

"Readline Britain" survey, to which Sir Walker also refers, confirm the extent to which the poor are still suffering "primary deprivation" in the sense that they cannot afford to keep warm or eat properly.

An analysis of the National Food Survey, published in the *Journal of Human Nutrition* (1978), has suggested that "low-income groups and large families tend to buy more efficiently than high-income groups and small families" despite the fact that poverty itself makes efficient buying more difficult because of lack of scope for bulk buying and travelling to cheaper stores.

A two-child family on supplementary benefit currently receives a basic £59.20 after meeting their housing costs. In 1981, the average weekly expenditure (excluding housing) of a two-child family was nearly £126 - more than double the sum on which we currently expect a poor family to live. Would Mr Walker really care to teach the "women of poor families" the art of managing on such an income?

Yours faithfully,
RUTH LISTER, Director,
Child Poverty Action Group,
1 Macklin Street WC2.

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COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

The Duke of Edinburgh, grand president, will preside at the opening of the twenty-second conference of the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League, at Windsor Castle on October 24. In the evening he will hold a British Commonwealth Ex-Services League reception at the Holiday Inn, Slough. He will preside at the closing ceremony of the conference at the Holiday Inn on October 26.

The Duke of Edinburgh, president of the Western Isles Abbey, will preside at a trustee meeting in Westminster Abbey on October 27.

The Duke of Edinburgh, president of the National Playing Field Association, will present the certificates at Buckingham Palace on November 1 and, as honorary fellow of the Plastics and Rubber Institute, will present the fourth Prince Philip Award.

Princess Anne, president of the British Olympic Association, will launch the "Round England Run".

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. A. R. Bradneill and Miss E. V. L. Hicks

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, second son of Mr and Mrs Michael Bradneill, of Dulwich, and Edwina, elder daughter of Mr David and Lady Pamela Hicks, of The Grove, Brightwell Baldwin, Oxfordshire.

Mr J. L. V. Lowry-Corry and Miss E. J. Lodge

The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and the Hon Mrs F. H. Lowry-Corry, of Edwardstone Hall, Buxton, Suffolk, and Judith, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs P. A. Lodge, of Overstones, Foxhill, Leeds, Yorkshire.

Dr S. A. Madgwick and Dr J. M. Carroll

The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr F. A. Madgwick, of Natal, South Africa, and Mrs R. B. Putter, of Lyminster, and Julian, son of the Revd Sir John Carroll, KBE, and of Lady Carroll, of Marbury Road, Wimborne, Dorset.

Mr C. W. Beresford Hartwell, RN and Miss D. C. Angier

The marriage has been arranged between Christopher William, eldest son of Mr and Mrs G. M. Beresford Hartwell, of Wallington, Surrey, and Dawn, Cathryn, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R. F. Augier, of Wallington, Surrey, and will take place at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Beddington, at 2 pm on Saturday, September 3.

Mr N. P. M. Bligh and Miss J. J. Mackenzie

The engagement is announced between Neil Peter, youngest son of the late Mr J. S. M. Bligh and of Mrs Nancy Bligh, of Inverness, and Jennifer, only daughter of the late Mr J. R. Mackenzie and Mrs Joan Dilley, of Hurley, Berkshire.

Mr J. C. Cole and Miss J. R. Dawson

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs J. A. Cole, of Merstham, Surrey, and Jill Rowena, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. L. Dawson, of Coulsdon, Surrey.

Mr G. C. Cole and Miss A. L. Young

The engagement is announced between John, elder son of the late Dr G. R. Cole, of Whitchurch, and Mrs Constance of Appleytree, Warwick, and Alexandra, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. A. Young, of Falcon Cottage, South Warborough, Hampshire.

Mr S. C. M. Davis and Miss M. A. S. Boyd

The engagement is announced between Simon, only son of Dr and Mrs L. M. Davis, of Ketton, Stamford, Lincolnshire, and Margaret, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. E. Boyd, of Kintore, Dundee.

Mr H. A. Douglas-Pennant and Miss S. R. Garvey

The engagement is announced between Hugh, son of Mr and Mrs R. A. Douglas-Pennant, of Ashton Tirrold, Didcot, Oxfordshire, and Sophie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. A. Young, of Falcon Cottage, South Warborough, Hampshire.

Mr M. F. G. Drummond-Brady and Miss S. H. Fair

The engagement is announced between Michael, youngest son of Major and Mrs M. J. Drummond-Brady, of Northend House, Hopetoun, South Queensferry, and Susie, daughter of Mr J. N. Fair, of Penrhyndeudraeth, Gwynedd, and Mrs L. Fair, of Penrhynlloeg, Dyfed.

Broadley, Mr Frank, of Whitfield, Dover, Kent.....£24,665

Shibika, Mr Herbert Walter, of Lang, Mr Robert Munro, of Ardgay, Ross-shire, chartered accountant.....£155,379

Latest wills

Latest estates include (not, before tax paid):

Angela, Mr Cecil, of Marquette, North Yorkshire, textile merchant.....£24,665

Broadley, Mr Frank, of Whitfield, Dover, Kent.....£24,665

Goddard, Mr Joseph Henry, of Ealing London.....£251,955

Harris, Mr Francis Claude, of Houghton on the Hill, Leicestershire, interest.....£287,028

Hicks, Mr Kenneth Bryan, of Kidderminster, Hereford and Worcester, company director.....£281,693

Lang, Mr Robert Munro, of Ardgay, Ross-shire, chartered accountant.....£155,379

In aid of the British Amateur Athletics Board and the British Olympic Appeal, at Grosvenor House on September 13.

Lady Anthony Hamilton gave birth to a daughter on August 24 at Omagh, co Tyrone.

Lady Vesey gave birth to a son on August 27 in Oxford.

A memorial service for the Hon Bernard Bruce will be held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks on Thursday, October 13, 1983 at noon.

Luncheons

HM Government
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, will speak at a luncheon at Admiralty House, given in honour of the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism of Tanzania, Mr Clement George Kahama.

Commonwealth Press Union
The Commonwealth Press Union held a luncheon in London yesterday to mark the presentation of the 1983 Astor Award to Mr Leslie Aszkenasy, of Jamaica, by Viscount Rothermere, president. Among those present were:

Lord Ardwick, Sir Edward Pickering, Mrs Leslie Aszkenasy, Mr John Barroux, Mr Alan Brooker, Mr Brian Nicholson.

Reception

British Safety Council
Mr Enoch Powell, MP, Mr R. Freeman, MP, Mr W. Hamilton, MP, Mr N. Hamilton, MP, Sir Anthony Meyer, MP, and Lady Meyer were guests at a reception held yesterday at the Middle Temple Hall for the 25th anniversary of the British Safety Council's diploma in safety management. Mr James Tye, Director General of the British Safety Council, was the host.

Mr C. J. Summers and Miss M. J. Clark
The engagement is announced between Christopher John, son of Mr and Mrs D. Summers of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, and Julie Suzanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Craik, of Northwood, Middlesex.

Mr R. Wise and Miss M. G. Pollard
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs D. Wise, of Colorado Springs, United States, and Melaine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs A. G. Pollard, of Hampshire.

Mr G. T. S. Youse and Melinda Koch

The engagement is announced between Savill, son of Brigadier and Mrs H. L. S. Young, and Marion, daughter of M and Mme J. P. Koch, of Rome.

Marriages

Mr P. J. M. Hartog and Miss U. Franzen
The marriage took place on August 20 in the Cathedral of Aachen, Rhineland, between Mr P. J. Hartog, son of Mr and Mrs Philip Hartog, of Wassenberg, Holland, and Miss Ulrike Franzen, daughter of Professor Dr Frans Franzen and the late Frau Doris Franzen of Cologne. The marriage service and Nuptial Mass were conducted by Canon Maurice O'Leary, uncle of the bridegroom.

Mr S. R. MacKeas and Miss E. A. Pauli

The marriage took place recently in the United States of Mr Shane MacKean, younger son of the late Major G. B. MacKean and of Mrs MacKean, of Loughnamore, Antrim, Northern Ireland, and Miss Elizabeth Paul, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Paul, of Odenton, Maryland.

Major M. B. Stibbington
The marriage took place on Saturday, August 27, 1983 at St John's, Donegore, co Antrim of Major Michael Stibbington, Army Air Corps, son of Mrs G. P. Roberts and stepson of Mr G. P. Roberts, of 14 Clewley Drive, Southport, and Miss Georgia MacKean, younger daughter of the late Major G. B. MacKean and of Mrs MacKean, of Loughnamore, Antrim. The Rev J. Moore officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her elder brother, Mr Muir MacKean, was attended by St. Donus, Mr. and Mrs. C. and Mrs. Sally Morris, Zeta Padley, Miss Antonia Brison and Miss Jill Martin. Mr Richard Koldewey was best man.

A reception was held at Loughnamore and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr G. A. Douglas-Pennant and Miss S. R. Garvey
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Science report

Gene-splicing in a US potato field

by the national Institutes of health.

Three exemptions have been granted on the recommendation of the institute's recombinant DNA advisory committee. One was a proposal from Stanford University involving genetic modifications to improve corn plants. Another, from Cornell, involved attempts to improve tomato and tobacco plants. The third proposal, the use of genetically engineered bacteria to reduce frost damage, is expected to be the first actually accomplished.

Gene-splicing, or recombinant DNA technology, involves genetic changes made by cutting and splicing, recombining, segments of DNA, which is the gene's active chemical. Its twisted strands contain the blueprints of genetic information of living things.

Such altered bacteria proved successful in controlling frost injury. Dr Lindow said at a Senate subcommittee hearing in June, many millions of dollars of frost protection costs saved, and new options in plant varieties and agronomic procedures opened up due to a lowering of the inherent frost sensitivity of agricultural plants.

The research on frost damage prevention stems from the discovery a decade ago that certain bacteria produce sugar-like ice crystal formation and therefore help to produce frost damage when temperatures drop just below the freezing point of water.

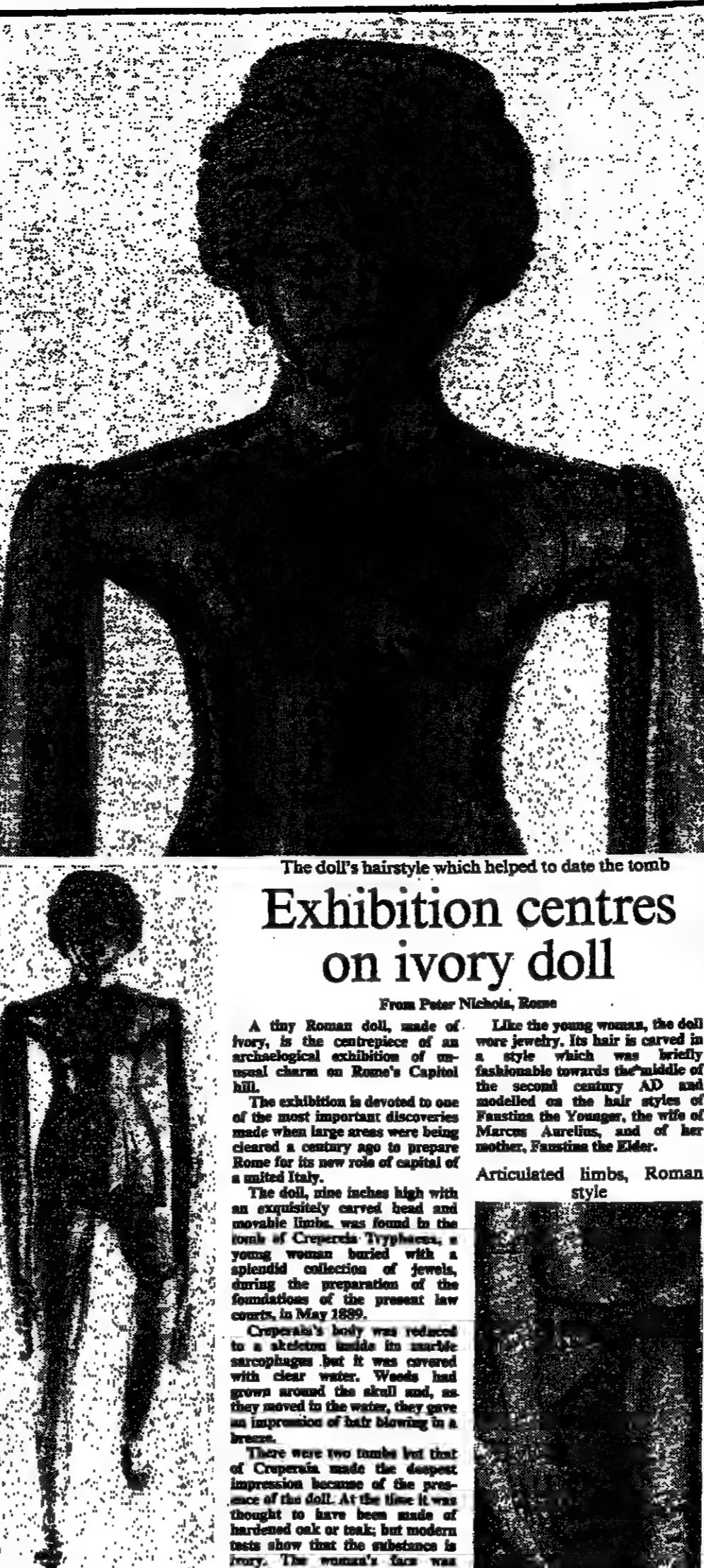
Dr Steven E. Lindow of the University of California at Berkeley, a leader in the research, notes that plants free

from such bacteria can tolerate temperatures as low as about 21°C, but are likely to suffer frost damage below 20°C. If the bacteria are present, Dr Lindow discovered that when the same bacteria lacked the gene that is key to ice nucleation, they did not produce frost damage.

Cynthia Orser, also of Berkeley found the DNA segment, that was the key to producing the frost damage. With an enzyme called a restriction endonuclease, she snipped out a portion of this bacterial DNA and used another enzyme, called a ligase, to rejoin the cut ends.

Only a small segment of DNA involving one out of a bacterium's 3,000 genes was cut and spliced, but it was enough to halt the formation of ice nuclei.

Those who first meet him are impressed by a suavity more usual in the Foreign Office than the police. Then, when he gets to know you a bit, he may face his



Exhibition centres on ivory doll

From Peter Nichols, Rome

A tiny Roman doll, made of ivory, is the centrepiece of an archaeological exhibition of unusual charms on Rome's Capitol hill.

The exhibition is devoted to one of the most important discoveries made when large areas were being cleared a century ago to prepare Rome for its new role of capital of a united Italy.

The doll, nine inches high with an exquisitely carved head and movable limbs, was found in the tomb of Crepera Tigris, a young woman buried with a splendid collection of jewels, during the preparation of the foundations of the present law courts, in May 1889.

Crepera's body was reduced to a skeleton inside its sarcophagus but it was covered with clear water. Weeds had grown around the skull and, as they moved to the water, they gave an impression of hair blowing in a breeze.

There were two limbs but that of Crepera made the deepest impression because of the presence of the doll. At the time it was thought to have been made of hardened oak or teak, but modern tests show that the substance is ivory. The woman's face was turned as if to look at the doll.

Archaeology

Largest Saxon town found

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

Excavations in Southampton have located the boundary ditch of the Saxon town, and shown it to be much larger than had been thought. Saxon Hamwic is now known to be 45 hectares (111 acres) in area, making it by far the largest town in England at the time.

The remains of several streets have also been found, laid out on a grid plan which indicates deliberate town planning, and the houses along them were very closely spaced.

This is the earliest evidence available anywhere in post-Roman Europe for a regular grid pattern of streets, and makes Hamwic crucial to our understanding of the origins of the English and European town", said Mr Mark Brisbane, the Southampton city archaeologist who is directing the excavation for the city and county councils and the Department of the Environment.

"Of equal importance is the ditch, which does not seem to be for defence. It is only two and a half metres wide, deep enough to keep animals out, and shows that instead of a Dark Age full of

houses and uncertainty, this was in fact a prosperous and peaceful period."

Hamwic was founded around AD 700 and flourished for two centuries. During that time dwellings were closely packed, even in the north-west corner of the town where present excavations, on the Six Dials roundabout site, have taken place.

The houses were of a remarkably uniform width, some five metres, although their lengths ranged from 12 to 17 metres. They were built only three metres apart, fronting on to the regularly planned gravel streets. The remains of 57 buildings, of timber and thatch with wattle and daub walls, have been found on the Six Dials site so far, and of these Mr Brisbane thinks a majority were completely misunderstood.

His estimate of 150 people living within the area of the site,

which was in the most distant part of Hamwic from the core around the quays on the Itchen, could mean that the town's population in AD 700 was about 9,000.

Hamwic would thus have been larger than contemporary London, and far bigger than the royal city of Winchester a few kilometres to the north, for which the regular plan may well have been the result of royal orders, perhaps of the King of Wessex at the beginning of the eighth century.

Numerous trades were carried on in this miniature metropolis; iron, bronze and gold were worked, the latter craft inducted by a dished matrix for making gold foil or embossing sheet gold. Butcherery was complemented by tanning and boneworking, and pottery and glass may have been manufactured.

Glass was also imported from the Rhine, together with querns for grinding corn, and wheats came from Norway. Coins show contacts with Mercia, in the Midlands, with Kent, and with northern France.

Until the Viking raids of AD 840, in fact, Hamwic was a busy, thriving port and market town", Mr Brisbane said. When it was replaced by medieval Southampton, 1.6 kilometres (1 mile) to the south-west, under the heart of the modern city, the later settlement was half the size of its Saxon precursor.

His other concern was for the welfare of the elderly. In 1948 he purchased a property in Worth, the Priory, to provide a guesthouse for elderly men and women of limited means who would otherwise not be able to afford a holiday. He was thinking especially of Londoners hit by post-war conditions. His priory was a non-profit-making housing association which assumed responsibility for The Priory under his chairmanship.

In 1951, when there seemed no longer a need for such holiday accommodation, he arranged for the transfer of ownership to the

Archaeology

OBITUARY

CAPTAIN E. H. B. BAKER

Advances in hydrographic surveying

Captain E. H. B.

THE ARTS

London theatre

A bleak warmth

Our Day Out
Young Vic

Arriving at the Young Vic via television and the Liverpool Everyman, Willy Russell's pocket musical seems to have been born and bred in Waterloo Road.

Played against a curtain-sized enlargement of a school essay, *Our Day Out* begins in the same blow-by-blow style with the sight of a pack of comprehensive no-hoppers being frisked for lemonade and chocolates, and loaded on to a bus for an improving trip to Bodiam Castle.

Before long the fags are out, a junior teacher is being propositioned from the back seats and a mutinous chant of "boring" is greeting the Sussex countryside. They descend on a cafe-like locusts, then stop off at a zoo, returning laden with kidnapped animals; and thence to Bodiam (represented with a blown-up infant-school picture) where the staff find themselves delivering information on the strategic use of the Barbican into the empty air.

Besides staging a school essay, Mr Russell is also presenting a duet between two members of the staff: the liberal woman teacher who organized the trip (Rosalind Boval) and a diehard authoritarian (Stephen Lewis) who joins it as the resident killjoy. From his point of view, such trips are educationally worthless. From hers these children have no educational hopes anyway, so why not at least give them a good day out? "We're in a job that's funded to fail."

The skill and zest of the show, wholeheartedly projected in Bob Eaton's production, derive from its success in following the adult argument through while preserving all the fun of a story for and mainly played by children.

Recruited from schools all over London, the company seems with sharp defiance personalities, among whom the quiet girl who refuses to come home is no less striking than the grinning lady-killer in the back seats. Apart from Marie Quenan, mooning over her love for "Sle" in one of the best numbers, they are not up to solos; but, so far as organized chaos and disciplined chorus work go, they are a treat.

They also persuade you to view the events through their eyes as a Dickensian fairy tale in which the Scrooge-like features of Mr Lewis gradually melt into those of an indulgent uncle, who celebrates his conversion by leading them off to the fair in a cowboy hat at which point tongue-in-cheek hymns and reprises of "Coming Round the Mountain" give way to rock 'n' roll. Then they all pile happily into the bus, and the authoritarian world of angry parents and school discipline gradually returns.

"Why can't it always be like this?" asks the runaway girl on the beach. By the end it is clear that all they have had is a day out: I have rarely seen a show that combined such warmth with such bleakness.

Irving Wardle

New York City Ballet
Covent Garden

Tuesday night's performance, an all-Balanchine programme, brought the last of the London premières in New York City Ballet's Covent Garden season.

Balanchine insisted on the laborious title *Robert Schumann's Davidshundertstanz* for the big ballet he created in 1980, so it is not fanciful to read into its action an allusion to the composer himself as well as his ideas of a brave young group, David's Band, going out to smite the Philistines. Perhaps everything must be seen as happening inside the poor mad genius's mind.

What the setting depicts is a fragment of a great hall where a pianist sits playing with his back to us. The arches of the wall are echoed in the jagged curves of dead trees visible beyond, on the shore of a lake from which an imagined cathedral rises. The idea of the setting, based on a painting by Caspar Friedrich, seems to me a lot better than its crude realization by Rouben Ter-Avunian.

I called it a big ballet, and so it is in scope, but the pianist, Gordon Boelzner, is the only musician and the cast consists of just four couples, usually with only two dancers at a time on stage. Among them, Adam Liders perhaps comes closest to Schumann's Enescus: it is he who at one point is threatened by Philistines emerging from the shadows, nasty black creatures wielding huge quills (critics' ovens). Liders ends the ballet, too bidding farewell to the gracious Karin von Arolsen.

The qualities of the various couples are admirably used, especially that pair, and lovely, gracious yet contemplative Suzanne Farrell paired with the courteous formality of Jacques d'Amboise. Stephanie Salcedo and Ib Anderson are the most imperious couple, Heather Watts and Peter Martins curiously subdued but with a scarcely concealed strength in reserve.

As in *Lieselotte Weise*, Balanchine has his women wear



Closest to Enescus: Adam Liders with the gracious Karin von Arolsen

cheerful shoes to establish a naturalistic mood before they change into ballet shoes to allow the dances to leap into a more fanciful manner. Von Arolsen changes back for her last entry, and the men wear low heels throughout. This device enlarges an already wide variety of styles, from a drinking song to lovers' heart-pourings, through which the

choreography expresses the nature of the romantic artist. But perhaps Balanchine would say he was just making dances to match the music, which they do to perfection. Each to his own reading.

I have space only to mention two remarkable performances among new casts in the other

With Visconti's *The Leopard* restored to health, and opening at full length in London today, Geoff Brown asks how much more suppressed film remains in the archives

Reformation in the wake of Napoleon

Burt Lancaster's proud prince, with Claudia Cardinale, in *The Leopard*

For a few days in December 1963

zoological warfare erupted in Britain's newspaper headlines. "The Leopard Man Says I Will See", shouted the London Evening Standard on December 18: he was suing, moreover, a company of foxes. The small print explained matters. This Leopard Man was the director Luchino Visconti, adapter of Giuseppe di Lampedusa's masterly novel about nineteenth-century Italy in transition. *I Gattopardo*: the film had won the Golden Palm award at Cannes that year. The foxes were the Twentieth-Century breed, who released the film in Britain and America with damaging cuts, bleached colour and an irritating English-language soundtrack. The war had reached the *Times* letters page the previous day. Visconti himself wrote from Rome, voicing his disgust in gentlemanly terms. But two months earlier, in the *Sunday Times*, no words had been miniced: the director despatched a literary fusillade, dismissing Fox's print out of hand ("It is now a work for which I acknowledge no paternity at all") and summoning the spirit of Robespierre ("It is time for some heads to roll").

In the event no one was guillotined and Fox were never sued; time just marched on.

Sydney Pollack, the television director hired by Fox to supervise the new version, soon progressed to respectable work on the big screen: the leading players — Burt Lancaster, Alain Delon, Claudia Cardinale — variously flourished: circulating prints gradually deteriorated, then disappeared. Seven films and 13 years later, Visconti died. Now, suddenly, the Leopard Man is scoring a posthumous victory: after spending time and money doctoring his work, Fox have just spent more time and money repairing the damage. New prints have been struck from the original Technicolor negative and English subtitles prepared: the restored film, 186 minutes long, opens today at the Gate Cinema, Notting Hill, in London. The leopard, it seems, can change its spots — along with the fox.

Jorge Lavelli's production uses unorthodox stage placings with creative assurance, and Max Bigeard's set has the same flair. His gaze from curtain and cyclorama frame an austerity suggesting rather a museum than a salon with real rooms beyond, but embrace the widows' and spinster in the white of the dying rose, the tulle and the shroud.

Fox's reversal may be ironic, but it is not beyond comprehension.

By linking up with Hollywood, Visconti and his producer ensured an enlarged budget, wider international release and the required services of Burt Lancaster. What other actor could incarnate Lampedusa's proud Sicilian prince, who touched chandeliers with his head and bent eardrily by mistake? As a corollary, however, Visconti's atmospheric epic became prey to Hollywood's market forces. In 1963, the art-house audience that might have appreciated Italian disquisitions on history and politics was not yet clearly established; Fox's hands were also too occupied with *Cleopatra* to give *The Leopard* any special treatment.

Twenty years later, different market forces operate. Mass cinema audiences have dwindled and splintered, and the Hollywood factory belt has almost seized up. To meet these changed conditions, Fox now sports an "International Classics" division, primed to snap up quality imports



and scattered surveys of station architecture: "I cannot pass judgment", de Sica said, so unlike Visconti, though he did venture that Selznick had perhaps cut "a little too much". Now, thanks to a nitrate print located in Japan, the architecture and kisses are back; the film lasts 95 minutes, and one trusts audiences are appreciative.

Paradoxically, the world's new respect for what French film posters call the *version intégrale* has surfaced just when the definition of an original version is crumbling. From the linguistic standpoint, there never was an original *Leopard*: the international cast began work in English and slowly drifted into their own native tongues as shooting continued; every edition, therefore, was dubbed to some degree, and the present Italian version cuts us off from Lancaster's voice. But recent financial marriages between film, television and video have brought extra, fiddish complications.

Europe's television stations enable major directors like Bergman and Francesco Rosi to create works designed simultaneously as features and television series (the extended version of *Fanny and Alexander* is scheduled for the current Venice Film Festival). The small screen also allows directors to remodel their past work. The version of *The Godfather* saga showing throughout next week on BBC television not only expands Coppola's two films with unused footage; scenes are now positioned in chronological order, altering the atmosphere and shifting emphases. As financial deals and packaging devices multiply, the notion of the unique, untouchable art-work seems more and more in peril. But, with the splendours of the restored *Leopard* before us, the paradox poses no problems.

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Loving sense of untheatrical stillness

Dona Rosita, the Spinster
Royal Lyceum

South America and never returns; is portrayed with an unembarrassed lassitude that sets Spain a world away from Russia, and the accepted social norms of nightingales ambling and nightingales singing; for the bridal scene as a turner that no disappointed girl in Chekhov ever dreamt.

Prodigiously, Lorca brings on stage a host of characters who impressively pressure on both the spinster and her social group; unworldly devotees to roses and delicate amid the rabbits and mid-misanthropists that we up here are finding hard to avoid.

The Cherry Orchard will follow it here next week, and it stands the comparison honorably. Rosita's brief happiness with her poor schoolteacher and suffering humilition from rich brats.

changing from morning red to white death: si nigh. Already, in Act II, she allows herself an arresting, apprehensive silence at breakfast, face and waistline in the great speech recognizing her dance as if dreaming.

Jorge Lavelli's production uses unorthodox stage placings with creative assurance, and Max Bigeard's set has the same flair. His gaze from curtain and cyclorama frame an austerity suggesting rather a museum than a salon with real rooms beyond, but embrace the widows' and spinster in the white of the dying rose, the tulle and the shroud.

Anthony Masters

Television

Prosy Shakespeare, stabbing guitars

the sixteenth. Although this Brazilian adaptation was "from William Shakespeare", it might just as well have been taken from the commentary, "one foot in the eighteenth century and one in the twentieth"; this must be a most uncomfortable position, and may account for the fact that it could only wobble backward into

was to prove the first disappointment of the evening.

Nevertheless this production had a certain measure of authenticity. With plaster images of the saints on every conceivable pedestal, the boys dressing up as girls and the women callously treated by every male in sight, Ouro Preto was as close as we are likely to get to the original setting.

But in modern dress the result was still peculiar, like a version of *Grange Hill* directed by Butted with the Shakespearean elements provided by subdued lighting, the sound of guitars and the occasional stabbing.

Theatricality was at a premium, with eyes swivelling in all directions, desperate conversations about what to do next and church bells tolling for yet another funeral. It seems that in every country adolescent love is given the same treatment; it is a vessel into which the passions otherwise missing from ordinary life can be poured. *Romeo and Juliet* was a perfect example of raw, rather than cooked, drama.

Peter Ackroyd

We regret that the name of the artist Bridget Riley was wrongly spelt on this page yesterday.

Twenty years later, different market forces operate. Mass cinema audiences have dwindled and splintered, and the Hollywood factory belt has almost seized up. To meet these changed conditions, Fox now sports an "International Classics" division, primed to snap up quality imports

He is a pro

Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet

13, 14, 15 Sept

Night Moves/

The Invitation/

St Anthony Variations

16, 17, 18 Sept

La Fille mal garde

20, 21, 22 Sept

The Winter Play/

Chorus/ Checkmate

23, 24 Sept

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Arts Council



13-24 September 1983

AUTUMN GARDENS NUMBER



Uncommon Autumn Bulbs

In an article illustrated in colour, Brian Mathew suggests some less familiar flowers for autumn.

Garden on the Kent Coast Arthur

Hellyer considers the changes made in recent years in the important Lutyens garden of The Salutation, Sandwich. Greenhouse Design and Setting Ken Lennion looks at different styles of greenhouses

and ways of placing them decoratively in the garden.

Autumn Daisy Chains Christopher Lloyd selects his favourite daisies for the autumn.

Too Many Plants Spoil the Garden Tony Venison suggests that many gardens suffer from overcrowding with plants.

COUNTRY LIFE

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The Soldier's Tale is a masterpiece of Stravinsky's Cubist phase: the separate components of narration, action, instrumental music and dance meet on planes slightly askew. In place of this next geometry, Finnisay's *Vauderville* offers a hothouse which seeks excuse in appealing to the eponymous American tradition of popular entertainment. It has been a perilous act to follow. It was brave, therefore, to

reinvent in this 1960 classic of confrontation between an arrogant soloist and an overbearing orchestra; until Tuesday night I had heard the piece played only by its dedicatee, Mstislav Rostropovich, in whose hands the gestures are larger than life. Jablonski, who played the piece in Glasgow's Musica Nova in 1981 and in New York recently, brought to it a much tighter intensity: the brittle edges of Lutoslawski's invention were always emphasized, and he characterized even the times phrase — a brief flourish near the close sticks in the music, swept off the cello into the air — with great precision.

The second half of the concert, conducted by Richard Hickox,

scherzes, dance routines, songs, flamenco and melodramas. That may make it sound like fun, but the material is all so weak it would have been howled off the stage by the notoriously ungenerous vandalle audiences. And, if that was not the point, then I wonder what is the point in playing homage to a style while forgetting all the quickness, variety and vulgarity which made that style live.

One is left with the work's two efforts at a non-vaudeville consistency. First there is a birth-death scenario that fits all the

composers on stage.

Paul Griffiths

Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

CITY OFFICE
200 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8EZ
Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 707.4 down 8.9
FT Gilts 79.33 down 0.08
FT All Shares 450.36 down 4.16
Bargains: 17,157
Datastream USM Leaders
Index 99.7 down 0.79
New York Dow Jones
Average: (latest) 1202.64 up 6.60
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 19,189.43 down 6.49
Hongkong Hang Seng
Index 965.94 down 5.14
Amsterdam 149.4 up 1.7
Sydney: AO Index 701.3 up 6.1
Frankfurt: Commerzbank
Index 914.10 down 0.02
Brussels: General Index
132.43 down 0.28
Paris: CAC Index 134.7
down 1.2
Zurich: SKA General 284.6
up 1.3

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4940 down 1/16m
Index 85.2 unchanged
DM 4.0325 up 0.0025
Fr 12.1125 down 0.0175
Yen 368 down 2.25
Dollar
Index 129.5 up 0.2
DM 2.7030

NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4955
Dollar \$2.6932
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 64.592
SDR 63.9345

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9%
Finance houses base rate 10%
Discount market loans week fixed 9 1/4%
3 month interbank 9 1/2-9 3/4%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10 1/2-10 1/4%
3 month DM 5 1/4-5 3/4%
3 month Fr 15 1/4-15 1/2%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 1/2%
Treasury long bond 100 1/4-100 1/2%
ECB Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period July 8 to August, 2 1983 inclusive: 9.300 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$414.25 pm \$414.50
close \$414.25-428.50 (\$227.50-278) down \$3.50
New York latest: \$414.25
Krugerrand* (per coin): \$427-428.50 (\$226-278)
Sovereigns (new): \$97.50-98.50 (\$25-26)
*Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interims: Anglo American Gold Investment; Arrow Chemicals; BP; British Vending Industries; Cadbury Schweppes; Cambridge Electronic Industries; Charterhouse Group; Metal Closures Group; Micro Business Systems; Noble and Lundi; Fintech; Continental Microwave; Economic statistics; United Kingdom balance of payments 1983 edition.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

BET Group, Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, WC2 (12.15); The Bristol Evening Post, Temple Way, Bristol (noon); Carco Engineering Group, The George Hotel, Huddersfield (3.30); Christian Salvesen, 50 East Fettes Avenue, Edinburgh (noon); Hales Properties Group, The Belfry Hotel, Wishaw, Nr. Sutton Coldfield (noon); Kintz-Kellas Rubber Estates, 1-4 Great Tower Street, EC3 (noon); Renold, Renold House, Wythenshawe, Manchester (2.30); SalecTV, Churchill Hotel, Portman Square, W1 (11.30); Star Offshore Services, The Baltic Exchange, 14-20 St Mary Axe, EC3 (noon); Syltone, Post House Hotel, Leeds Road, Bramhope, Nr. Leeds (2.30); VTC, The Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, WC2 (10.30).

NOTEBOOK
• Babcock International, the process plant and instrument manufacturer, raised interim pretax profit by 70 per cent to £14m. The dividend has been held at 3.4p. The improvement in the American car and furniture businesses and lower interest rates and borrowings helped increase profits. But the value of the order book has shrunk because of the downturn in demand for capital projects.

Page 16

Industry leaders shed market share as fringe operators slash rates

Major motor insurers lose millions in 'unrealistic' premium price war

By Andrew Cornelius

Britain's major insurance companies are losing millions of pounds of business in a cut-throat price war over motor premiums.

Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance, Britain's second largest motor insurer, blamed competition from fringe motor insurance companies for the loss of more than 60,000 of its clients in the past six months.

The increasingly intense competition follows the 7 per cent rise in premiums announced last October by GRE, which insures more than 1.6 million British motorists. GRE said that fringe insurers — those outside the top 15 companies — were slashing rates by £20 on the average British motor premium of £100.

In addition, these fringe companies are paying extra commission to insurance brokers in a bid to win business from the large companies.

The loss of business in the six months to June 30 has cost GRE £5m in premium apparent reason".

PRETAX PROFITS

General Accident	Guardian Royal Exchange
1978 £290.1m	£283.9m
1979 £265.5m*	£275.8m
1980 £232.3m	£287.1m
1981 £104.9m	£289.1m
1982 £24.5m	£106.2m

income means that the company has failed to increase its motor insurance premium income for the first time in memory.

Yesterday GRE said that the new rates being offered by fringe companies are unreal.

Problems on the British motor insurance account have been aggravated by the heavy incidence of claims in May and June. GRE reported a 10 per cent rise in motor claims in these months "for no apparent reason".

General Accident Fire & Life Assurance, Britain's largest motor insurance company, indicated problems on the motor account three weeks ago when it announced interim results for 1983.

In a bid to correct the imbalance on the account premiums were increased by 10 per cent from August 1. At the time Mr Buchan Marshall, chief general manager at General Accident, said the company was taking a lead to try to restore sense to the market, but he conceded that the company would probably lose market share as a result.

Further evidence of the effect which greasing competition for motor insurance business is having on the industry will emerge today with publication of global returns from the Lloyd's of London insurance market.

The tough competition for motor business was responsible for GRE's British underwriting losses of £122.9m in the six months to June 30 against a loss of £20.7m for the same last year. Premium

income rose by 11 per cent to £533m throughout the group, although UK premium income grew modestly from £100m to £200m after problems on the motor side.

Despite the problems group pretax profits were up by 40 per cent to £50m and the board recommended an increase in the interim dividend from 7p to 7.75p.

Mr Peter Dugdale, managing director of GRE, said that although the results are considerably better than the first half of last year they still reflect the difficult trading conditions in major market areas like Britain, the US and Ireland.

The Republic of Ireland was a particularly difficult market, making an underwriting loss of £3.5m against a loss of £2.3m last year. Rates have been held back by government price controls, GRE said.

The Canadian operation reported much improved results, making a £700,000 profit against last year's £3.9m underwriting loss.

City Editor's Comment

Ship of state takes on new helmsmen

Virtually every nationalized industry chairman leaves office a wiser man than when he first agreed to take the poisoned chalice. Most are also sadder — reflecting the fact that running one of the State industries is like Dr Johnson's view of remarriage: very much a triumph of hope over experience.

Tempting as it is, it is therefore only prudent not to take too rosy or optimistic an attitude to the fact that today marks a significant change in personnel at the helms of several of our key State industries.

Departing are Sir Norman Siddeall (coal), Mr Ian MacGregor (steel) and Sir Robert Atkinson (ship-builders); in their places come Mr MacGregor again (switching to coal), Mr Robert Haslam (steel) and Mr Graham Day (ship-builders). Soon to follow the exodus from the nationalized industries' chairmen's group is Sir Peter Parker at British Rail, although his successor has yet to be named.

The new appointments are critical for several reasons. For a start they mean that this Government has finally got in place the men that it sees as being equipped to carry out the revolution — it is no less — in working habits, efficiency and employment that lies at the heart of the Government's approach to nationalized industries.

Concentration on enhancing recovery methods comes as oil industry analysts say that there is a detectable change in the atmosphere in the North Sea industry. Signs for the future are increasingly encouraging.

British Gas Shell suggests that nitrogen or carbon dioxide could be ammonia onshore and piped out to the oilfields. Such a scheme would lead to order world millions of pounds for the British Steel industry.

The scheme, which has been studied by Shell, would involve two nitrogen producing platforms in the North Sea linked by pipeline to the oilfields.

The Norwegian Government has already announced tax changes to encourage a £200m scheme for increasing production.

Concentration on enhancing recovery techniques, if applied to all Shell-Ess oil fields in the North Sea, could result in production being increased by up to over 850 barrels.

With much North Sea gas already earmarked for sale to

Irish oil, page 16

All three men who are giving up chairman's seats today are popular for one reason or another with ministers. All three are indeed appointees of this Government, and one of them, Mr MacGregor, is only shifting sideways. But there is no disguising the fact that it is not until now that Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues feel that they have finally got the right men into the right seats at the right time.

The consumer spending boom benefited the previously troubled Allied Carpet and Wades furniture operation. Wades, in particular, showed a big jump in turnover up just over 16 per cent at £1.5bn.

The group is planning a one-for-three scrip issue. A final dividend of 1.75p will make total of 3p.

The first years of the 1979 administration, which resulted in the massive tax

lockouts

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There will be rows between the chairmen and the Government. There will be disputes over privatisation, and how central a role change in ownership per se should have in any long-term plans for the industries. That much is certain. The City, however, will do well to take the smile — or grimace — on the face of these brave appointees as a key indicator to the health of the economy.

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Cautious report on Irish oil find

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

A new appraisal of offshore oil exploration in the Celtic Sea off the Irish South coast by leading analysts has emphasised that speculation of big oil discoveries should be treated with caution.

Wood Mackenzie, the stockbrokers, analysed initial results from the block being drilled by a consortium headed by Gulf and which includes the Irish company Atlantic Resources.

Speculation that commercially viable oil deposits had been found led to Atlantic Resources shares rising from 30p in March this year to 61p four weeks ago before dropping to nearer 30p.

In its report, Wood Mackenzie says: "At this stage it must be emphasized that reserves are highly uncertain. It is rarely possible on the basis of a single well to understand all the complexities of any oil reservoir."

"Therefore the recent reported news should be viewed with caution. Further appraisal work will certainly be required before any decision can be made as to commercial development. In the meantime it may be wise to take a cautious stance on the area."

Wood Mackenzie suggests, however, that if oil is found in

Stanley back in the black

By Jeremy Warner

A. G. Stanley Holdings
Half-year to 5.7.83.
Pre-tax profit £493,000 (loss £271,000).
Statued earnings 5.16p (loss 1.1p).
Turnover £1.5m (£1.3m).
Net interim dividend 20p.
Share price 48p up 1p. Yield 3%.

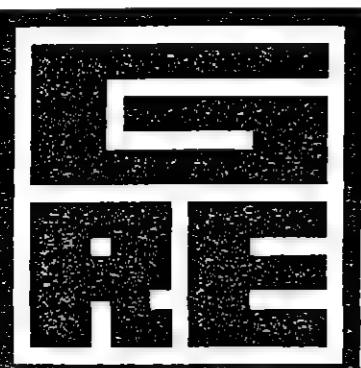
A. G. Stanley, the Fads paint and wallpaper manufacturing and retailing group, returned to the black in the first half of the year.

Pre-tax profits of £493,000 or sales marginally higher at £27.7m were reported yesterday by Mr Malcolm Stanley, the chairman, against losses of £171,000 during the corresponding period of last year.

The recovery was achieved in spite of much lower profits on the disposal of property. Only £20,000 was realized from this source in the first half of the year against £194,000 previously.

The company said that competition had increased during the last year, but that both sales volume and market share had been maintained.

The company expects to see an upturn in turnover in the autumn.



Interim Statement

The unaudited estimated results of Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance plc for the six months ended 30th June 1983 are as follows:

	First 6 months 1983	First 6 months 1982	Year 1982*
Investment Income	£m	£m	£m
Less Interest Payable	84.9	77.0	166.3
	5.6	5.6	11.2
Underwriting Results	79.3	71.4	155.1
Short-term (Fire, Accident and Marine)	(36.1)	(40.4)	(66.1)
Long-term	6.8	4.7	17.2
Profit before taxation	50.0	35.7	106.2
Less Taxation	19.2	13.7	43.3
Profit after taxation	30.8	22.0	62.9
Less Preference dividend and Minority Interests	1.8	1.4	3.6
Profit after taxation available to Ordinary shareholders	29.0	20.6	59.3
Ordinary Dividend	12.2	11.0	30.6
Transferred to retained profits	16.8	9.6	28.7
Earnings per Ordinary share (after taxation)	18.4p	13.1p	37.7p

*Extracted from the Company's full Accounts for the year 1982 which received an unqualified Auditors' Report and which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

Results by Territories (before taxation)	First 6 months 1983	First 6 months 1982
Net Premiums	£m	£m
Australia	31.6	—
Canada	42.1	0.7
Germany	87.4	(3.6)
Republic of Ireland	10.2	(3.5)
South Africa	20.8	0.5
U.K.	200.2	(22.9)
U.S.A.	54.2	(3.6)
Miscellaneous	86.6	(3.7)
	533.1	(36.1)
Underwriting Result	£m	£m
Australia	5.2	24.3
Canada	6.2	(3.9)
Germany	8.7	76.1
Republic of Ireland	2.1	(2.8)
South Africa	2.2	(0.2)
U.K.	19.0	197.3
U.S.A.	4.1	(2.0)
Miscellaneous	13.2	(5.5)
	479.3	(40.4)
Investment Income	£m	£m
Australia	24.3	(2.8)
Canada	(3.9)	5.1
Germany	76.1	7.5
Republic of Ireland	(2.8)	1.7
South Africa	(0.2)	1.9
U.K.	197.3	35.5
U.S.A.	(2.0)	4.4
Miscellaneous	(5.5)	11.3
	479.3	71.4

The territorial results are stated after reinsurance protection from group companies. The 'Miscellaneous' underwriting result includes this reinsurance in respect of the territories shown below:

	First 6 months 1983	First 6 months 1982
Net Premiums	£m	£m
Australia	(3.5)	(0.8)
Canada	1.1	(1.3)
South Africa	0.3	0.5
Others	(0.6)	(1.1)
	(2.7)	(2.7)

	30th June 1983	30th June 1982
Exchange Rates		
Australia	1.75	1.69
Canada	1.88	2.22
Germany	3.90	4.29
Republic of Ireland	1.24	1.24
South Africa	1.67	1.98
U.S.A.	1.53	1.72

	First 6 months 1983	First 6 months 1982
New Sums Assured	3,200.3	2,775.1
New Annuities per annum	52.5	34.9
New Annual Premiums	37.3	21.5
New Single Premiums	42.9	34.3

The effect of exchange rate movements has been to increase net premiums by £20.9m, investment income by £3.3m and the short-term business underwriting loss by £0.2m. After allowing for the effect of exchange rate movements, the underlying growth in investment income was 6%.

The long-term business underwriting result represents one half of the expected transfer to shareholders for the full year. The increased transfer for the first six months 1983 reflects in some measure the large influx of new business in the United Kingdom arising from MIRAS Dividend.

An interim dividend in respect of the year 1983 will be paid on 4th January 1984 of 7.75p per share (1982—7p per share) which, with the tax credit available to eligible shareholders, is equivalent to 11.07p per share (1982—10p per share). This dividend will be paid to holders of Ordinary shares whose names appear on the register on 8th December 1983.



Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance
Royal Exchange London EC2V 3LS

Germany and the U.S.A. reflect the continued difficult market conditions in those territories. Elsewhere there have been useful underwriting profit contributions from France and the Far East.

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Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest

Fine tuning helps Asda to 27% rise

Western Mining

Western Mining
Year to 21.6.83
Consolidated operating profit £33.97m (£58.94m)
Stated earnings 1.4 cents (2.5 cents)
Turnover £365m (£225m)
Net final dividend 1 cent
Share price 278p Yield 7.8
Dividend payable 18.11.83

There was also an exchange loss of A\$5.85m because the 15.4 per cent devaluation of the Australian dollar against the American dollar, although helping receipts from nickel, raised the cost of repayments on foreign borrowings. The loss on bringing up BHP South came to A\$23.3m. With earnings per share almost halved from 2.5 cents investors might prefer other Australian gold stocks.

Good Relations

Good Relations
Half-year to June 30
Pre-tax profit £402,000 (£203,000)
Stated earnings 3.6p (1.2p)
Turnover £23.2m (£21.7m)
Net interim dividend 1.5p
Share price 205p
Dividend payable October 1

Merchant bankers and other financial advisers are not the only people to have prospered from the recent spate of big takeover battles around the City.

Financial public relations groups are also doing very nicely, as the latest profits from Good Relations show.

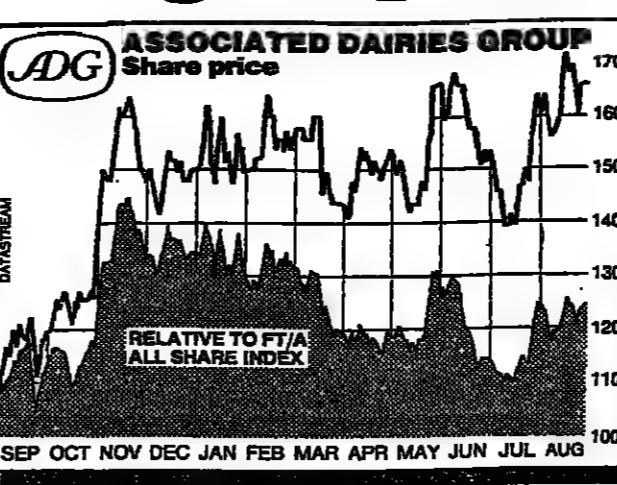
True pretax profits doubled to £402,000 mainly because of the abortive attempt to defeat BTR's bid for Thomas Tilling, but Good Relations should be able to make £75,000 for the year.

Nevertheless, the company has grown increasingly uncomfortable with the Unlisted Securities Market and has sought a full listing. Approval is expected tomorrow, and dealings should start on Monday.

Good Relations has been sensitive to criticisms of the way the USM is run and, appropriately, fears that its image will suffer.

It has also realized that for only £26,000, on top of the £76,000 it paid to join the USM, it can obtain a full listing. Others have paid as much as £500,000 for a direct full listing.

If other companies follow Good Relations it may be necessary to re-examine the role and workings of the USM, it certainly does not seem to be in anyone's interest that it should simply be a second rate forum.



Associated Dairies Group
Year to 30.6.83
Pre-tax profit £7.38m (£6.77m)
Stated earnings 5.17p (5.33p)
Turnover £1.5m (£1.3m)
Net interim dividend 1.75p mkt 3p
Share price 165p Yield 2.58
Dividend payable 23.9.83

Leeds-based Associated Dairies Group, with its Asda supermarket, fresh food operation, and carpets and furnishings chain, has turned in results ahead of expectations. A 16 per cent turnover rise helped to generate a 27 per cent increase in pretax profits.

Analysis are now marking up expectations for next time to more than £90m pretax, putting the shares on a fully-valued basis at least 18.7 times.

Some improvement from the superstores had been expected because gross margins seemed to be improving. But the new policy of fine-tuning stores to local needs, combined with additional dividends, has paid additional dividends, pushing Asda's operating profit up by 24 per cent.

The sharpest turnaround is in the Allied Carpets and Wades furnishings operations, both of which have gained from the rise in consumer spending. But the superstores are the heart of the business and this is where competition is still growing. J Sainsbury has intensified its challenge and Tesco Stores, at number two if the sprawling Co-op is ignored, is not so far behind.

In the package grocery market, Sainsbury holds 15.8 per cent market share, Tesco 14.5 per cent and Asda 8.4 per cent. Asda has moved up in the past few months after stagnating at about 8 per cent, thereby showing how far this index, covering about 40 per cent of the food market, is only a limited indicator of company performance.

Associated Dairies is sitting on £83m in cash (up from £52m last time) so it can afford to press the competition hard, although it is opening only five new stores this year.

A heavy investment in new technology such as electronic point-of-sale equipment seems likely, with the group raising another £41m with a one-for-three scrip it looks as if there

could be some diversification, probably into a more profitable area than carpets and furnishings.

But Asda, like Sainsbury and Tesco, must be looking over its shoulder at Mr Jimmy Gulliver now that Argyll operation has been pulled together an expanded Argyll has 5.6 per cent of the packaged grocery market in the UK auto and householding

Elsewhere Babcock is suffering from a downturn in demand for capital projects which has hit the group's process engineering subsidiaries. Total group orders in hand have fallen from £1.358m at the beginning of the year to £1.23

APPOINTMENTS

Shuffle at the top of Thorn EMI

Thorn EMI: Mr Dennis Neill, the deputy managing director, will relinquish his executive duties and retire from the board on December 31.

Thorn EMI Engineering Group is being reorganized and will operate through two enlarged high technology divisions, Thorn EMI Electronics (chief executive, Mr T. Mayer) and Thorn EMI Information Technology (chief executive, Mr C. Soutgate). The remaining businesses will be regrouped as Metal Industries, with Mr P. Hayman as chairman.

The engineering businesses, together with Thorn Ericsson Telecommunications, will continue to report to Sir William Barlow. Mr I. Owen is appointed chairman of a newly-created product grouping, the Thorn EMI Commercial Group from October 1. Initially, this will include Thorn EMI Foodservice Equipment and Thorn EMI Flow Measurement and Domestic Appliances companies.

Mr D. W. V. Parkes is made chairman of Thorn EMI Domestic Appliances from January 1. Mr D. B. Hewitt is appointed managing director of Thorn EMI Ferguson from January 1. Mr R. E. Norman continues as chairman. Mr R. F. Eade has assumed a corporate role as director of commercial technology.

Wealth Building Society: Miss Patricia Mann, vice-president of J. Walter Thompson International and head of external affairs, J. Walter Thompson Group (UK) has been appointed to the board.

Simplex-GE: Mr Joseph E. Fogliano has been appointed managing director and chief operating officer.

Lloyd's of London Press: Mr R. W. Curd, Mr K. M. Ratcliffe, Dr Elizabeth Muller and Mr D. Lodge have become executive directors.

Halifax Building Society: Mr J. R. Slatter and Mr J. A. Kay have joined the society's London Board of directors.

J. H. Minet & Co: Mr Peter Trend has joined the company and will take over responsibility for the Bloodstock account.

English China Clay: Dr Stanley Denison and Mr Robert Carton-Porter have been appointed directors.

D. J. Freeman & Co: Mr Martin Northcott, Mr Richard Powell, Mr Stephen Walker, Mr Marcus Rutherford and Miss Mary Tyerman have joined the partnership.

Victims of the world recession - 2: Edward Townsend looks at the steel industry**Rebuilding a slimmer giant from the world scrapheap**

An uneasy hull seems to have descended on the world's steel industry. After two years of being savaged by recession, steelmakers are licking their wounds and waiting for an opportunity to fight back.

There are now some perceptible signs of a revival of the market - cars are being built in greater quantities and construction is recovering - but the impact on steel and its ability to make profits is minimal and steelmen still have some hard decisions to make about capacity.

Steel production, more than most of the basic industries, has been crippled by economic decline, a reflection of its central position in the industrial economy. All over the world, mills have been shut and meager profits have turned rapidly into enormous losses.

At the beginning of October, senior steel executives from 44 countries will gather in Vienna for the seventeenth annual conference of the Brussels-based International Iron and Steel Institute, a body whose aim, stated at its inauguration in 1967, is to contribute to the development, progress and welfare of the steel industries of the free world.

Much of the discussion and debate is likely to concentrate on the appealing prospect of several more years of stagnation and contraction, never before in the history of the IISI have the delegates had such a pressing need for the organization's aims to be fulfilled, nor the desire in the face of extreme competition to display to each other that their nerves as well as their products are forged from the same material.

The last year has seen the steel industry struggling to pull itself out of the hole, while there has been much uneasiness tickling over market share, state aids and over-capacity and lots of protectionist noises in the US and Europe.

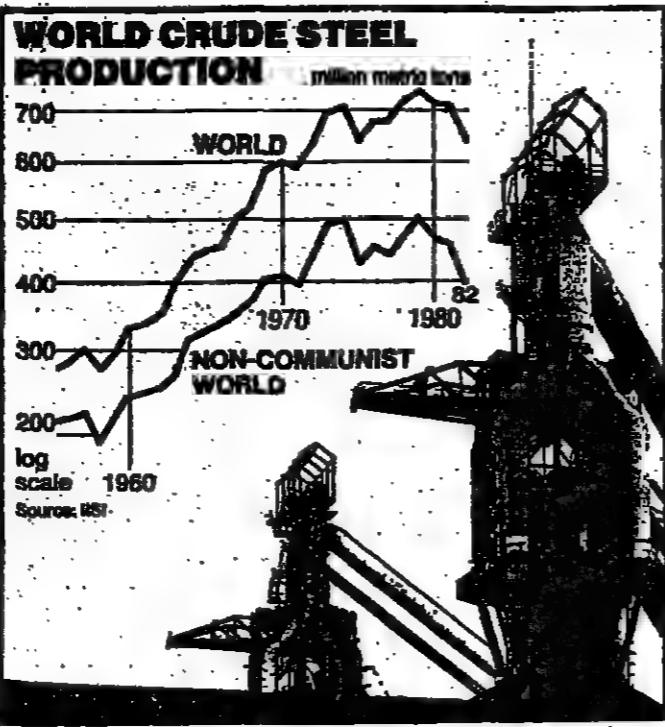
Crucial to any study of the steel issue is to try to answer the question of whether world demand for the metal has settled to a new, permanently lower level. In other words, have other materials like plastics eroded steel's share of its traditional markets to such an extent that the industry can never expect to regain former levels of output?

A year ago, at the last IISI conference in Tokyo, Mr Eishiro Saito, chairman of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation, was bullish about prospects.

He said: "Many of the world's nations continue to seek economic development through greater industrialization. Moreover, if we look ahead at the prospects for resources and energy development, it seems very unlikely that a substitute for steel can be found."

"As a matter of fact, some of steel's major competitors are closely tied to crude oil which, we all know, has many problems with regard to the security of supply."

"Viewed in this light, we can



considerations are bound to be a major constraint on most steel substitutes. Thickening along these lines, it is utterly impossible for me to subscribe to the view voiced by some that the steel industry is on the wane."

Certainly, steel looks like being the mainstay of manufacturing industry for many decades to come, but in the present climate (price cutting in the US is at its most fierce since the 1930s) its long term future must be queried in relation to competitive materials.

The main villains were Opec's two oil price crises

Steel consumption in the US, Japan, West Germany, Britain and France last year was 203 million tonnes, a fall of more than a fifth on the peak year of 1973 and more than four times greater than the decline in activity in those countries' leading steel-using industries.

The authoritative *World Steel Dynamics* review by the New York stockbroker Paine Webber Mitchell Hutchins blames the big slump on the trend, particularly in the US, towards smaller, lighter and less thirsty cars, continuing losses to other materials (substitution is thought to reduce steel demand normally by 1 per cent a year) the severe lag on capital spending in many countries, and anywhere in the world of above-average economic growth.

When economies are booming, steel demand tends to rise dramatically as there is much more money and incentive for big projects like factories and power stations. Periods of slower growth, such as that possibly being experienced at present, are more likely to see expansion in the service industries.

The stockbroker points out that the biggest positive factor affecting steel consumption in the years 1973-81 was the boom in development of energy sources, which in the US alone caused a million tonnes rise in steel use in areas such as oil well drilling, energy storage and transportation.

The main villain, of course,

was the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries

World's top twenty steel producers (1982)

	Million metric tons of crude steel
1 USSR	147.0
2 Japan	90.5
3 USA	67.5
4 China	37.0
5 West Germany	35.9
6 Italy	24.0
7 France	18.4
8 Czechoslovakia	15.0
9 Poland	14.5
10 UK	13.7
11 Spain	13.1
12 Romania	13.0
13 Brazil	13.0
14 Canada	11.9
15 South Korea	11.8
16 India	11.0
17 Belgium	9.9
18 South Africa	8.2
19 East Germany	7.1
20 Mexico	7.1

whose headquarters, ironically for this year's IISI conference organizers, is in Vienna. The two main oil price crises of the 1970s brought the shatters down on the western world economies and consequently on the steel industry.

Now, the crude price has fallen back from \$34 a barrel to \$29 and there is every hope that it will not go up faster than inflation at least for the remainder of this decade.

The consequent economic advance should provide a spur to the steel mills and the stock-

market, the stockbroker says, "blow the lid off steel prices". In such circumstances, the spot export price could rise from the present figure of about \$335 a tonne to \$340.

Meanwhile, the shortage of sufficient capital among steelmakers should ensure that there is little significant increase in world capacity. Total capacity is forecast to grow by only 1 per cent a year probably until the end of the century.

So it seems that in the longer term, steel can look forward to regaining some of its former glory.

In the immediate future the prospects are bleak; the European Commission, for example, has called for another 150,000 job losses throughout the Community, for another 150,000 job losses throughout the Community if there is to be any chance of a return to viability.

In the US, the industry has faced a crisis of disaster proportions, much greater than that of the Europeans and the basic cause of the country's decision to erect barriers against imports.

Shipments of steel to the car factories fell by 29 per cent last year compared with 1981 to 9.3 million tons. In 1973 the car sector absorbed 22.2 million tons - appliance shipments were down a quarter, construction shipments by 29 per cent, oil and gas shipments by 56 per cent, and so on.

Even the super-efficient Japanese industry has been badly mauled by the recession. The country's steel mills have been operating at just 56 per cent of capacity this year, less than Britain, France and West Germany and their losses in the first quarter were estimated at \$67 per tonne.

The consequence is bound to be a continued period of friction in the international markets, with companies keen to offset their problems by trying to forge deals such as the plan to combine the British Steel Corporation's Scottish steel slab output with the finishing capacity of United States Steel in Philadelphia.

Such arrangements are, presumably, in accord with the rather poormouth sentiments expressed at the IISI's 1977 conference in Rome by a past chairman, Mr Eishiro Saito. Referring to expected difficulties in the 1980 he quoted a Zen saying: "Only when one perceives pleasure in the midst of pain can one begin to understand the exquisite meaning of life."

Most steelmen, however, would settle for a decent profit.

Tomorrow: Shipping

Industrial notebook**Reports that carry weight at work**

The time-honoured journalistic principle for dealing with voluminous official reports - weigh them, sift them but for God's sake don't read them - has nowhere been put to greater test than with the outpourings of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and other independent investigators on the nationalized industries.

They have, for example, more than endorsed the politically unpopular dose of gas price rises in the last four years (the only criticism being that the increases have not gone far enough), while if there was ever any doubt about the need for an accelerated programme of pit closures, the Monopolies Commission has killed it with its detailed and excruciating exposure of the coal board's finances.

It is true that the quality of analysis has not always been as sophisticated as it might be. For example, one of Deloitte's conclusions reads simply: "We saw a surprisingly high number of unutilized vehicles... we recommend that fleet sizes should be limited and strictly controlled" - which hardly ranks as in-depth analysis.

But that is an exception. The outwardly cool response of both the industries and the Government should not be allowed to disguise the fact that the investigations do represent a significant step forward.

More important is the undoubted blow for greater accountability that publication of such detailed information about the industries represents. Those who defy the journalistic tradition and read through the tomes will find a wealth of fact that has never seen the light before, and which goes beyond the inadequate and sometimes downright misleading information in many State industry annual reports and accounts.

The Monopolies Commission's breakdown of the losses at individual collieries is for example something that journalists and MPs have long sought in vain.

There is a parallel here with the House of Commons select committees, which are still struggling to justify their newfound power. Their reports may be patchy in quality, but the knowledge that information must be given and published - even if few bother to read it - is proving one of the most powerful incentives to efficiency that can be turned on either Whitehall or nationalized industry boards. More verbal tomfoolery, please.

Jonathan Davis

Stock	Offer Type	Mid Offer Yield	Stock	Offer Type	Mid Offer Yield	Stock	Offer Type	Mid Offer Yield	Stock	Offer Type	Mid Offer Yield
Authorised Unit Trusts			Authorised Unit Trusts			Authorised Unit Trusts			Authorised Unit Trusts		
1-25 City Fund	Offer Type	24.7	1-25 City Fund	Offer Type	24.7	1-25 City Fund	Offer Type	24.7	1-25 City Fund	Offer Type	24.7
25-50 City Fund	Offer Type	24.7	25-50 City Fund	Offer Type	24.7	25-50 City Fund	Offer Type	24.7	25-50 City Fund	Offer Type	24.7
50-100 City Fund	Offer Type	24.7	50-100 City Fund	Offer Type	24.7	50-100 City Fund	Offer Type	24.7	50-100 City Fund	Offer Type	24.7
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50000-100000 City Fund	Offer Type	24.7	50000-100000 City Fund	Offer Type	24.7	50000-100000 City Fund	Offer Type	24.7	50000-100000 City Fund	Offer Type	24.7
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500000-1000000 City Fund	Offer Type	24.7	500000-1000000 City Fund	Offer Type</td							

Cricket: the dour and the poorly hold up championship rivals but Essex still have the advantage

Essex could not make mincemeat and Lancashire are out of a stew

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

OLD TRAFFORD: Essex, with two first innings wickets in hand, are 38 runs ahead of Lancashire.

Essex, to their great delight, found Lancashire short of five of their regular first team, including Clive Lloyd, and began by making mincemeat of them. By the end of the day, though, Lancashire's mostly young side had fought back very well, Essex being 160 for 8 in reply to 122.

Soon after lunch Essex already had four bonus points for bowling. For most of a hazy morning the ball swung like a boomerang. Lancashire, captained by Simmons, had opted to bat. Essex, when they batted, lost their wickets more to carelessness, or perhaps it was overeagerness to get the championship won before the weather plays its part. It may not be a good omen, but it is nothing like as bad as the scores might suggest.

Lancashire's total represented,

SCOREBOARD

LANCASHIRE: First Innings		
O Power	b Lever	17
M J Studd	c Jefferies	13
F C Hayes	c D East b Lever	13
S M Zaib	b Philp	13
D T Mardell	c Jefferies	13
J Simmons	c Fletcher b Philp	31
J Stansfield not out		31
D H Hardie	b Philp	31
M McEwan	c D East b Philp	31
P J W Allott	b D East b Philp	22
Extras (4 b, 5 n-b, 5)		11
Total (40 overs)		122
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-18, 3-4, 4-23, 5-30, 6-34, 7-57, 8-64, 9-88, 10-122.		
BOWLING: Lever 20-3-52-5; Philp 23-7-54; Mardell 14-0-40; Allott 2-3-4-1.		

Pringle 14-0-40; Allott 2-3-4-1.

Score (40 overs)

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-51, 3-83, 4-87, 5-99, 6-118, 7-156, 8-180.

Bonus points (to date): Lancashire 3, Essex 5.

Umpires: W E Alley and D G Oaker.

Score (40 overs)

J K Lever and D L Allott to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-51, 3-83, 4-87, 5-99, 6-118, 7-156, 8-180.

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Score (40 overs)

J K Lever and D L Allott to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-5

GOLF: BALLESTEROS CAN CLOSE GAP AT SUNNINGDALE



Spanish accent: Piñero, Severiano Ballesteros, Calero, Manuel Ballesteros and Garcia watching Larry Nelson driving (Photograph: Ian Stewart).

Two sub-plots in a European story

By John Hennessy

Golf Correspondent

A number of issues are woven into the fabric of the European open championship, sponsored by Panasonic, at Sunningdale from today until Sunday. That the prize fund is the biggest of the European season after the Open seems almost incidental. It is a tournament, with a first prize of £3,330, that would be bound to attract the best in the business, but wheels within well oiled wheels have also drawn two distinguished visitors, Larry Nelson, the holder of the United States Open title and Isao Aoki, almost a compulsory requirement for any tournament sponsored by Japanese industry.

Within the framework of the championship there are two separate sub-plots. One involves Nick Faldo and Severiano Ballesteros for the title, unofficially at least, of the European golfer of the

year. Faldo with £84,210 leads

Ballesteros by nearly £20,000 at the moment, but with a man like Ballesteros it might look a slender lead when so many rich pickings are in prospect for the rest of the season. That gap could indeed be closed in a single leap were Ballesteros to win and Faldo finish lower than seventh.

More broad-based is the tussle for the remaining places in the European Ryder Cup team to play the United States in Florida in October. The competition is so fierce that Eamonn Darcy, of Ireland, the twelfth man in the list with £24,396, has less than £5,000 to spare over another Irishman from the North, Ronan Rafferty, now lying 18th. Rafferty has won £19,960.

In the ordinary way scores in pro-ams should be treated with suspicion. I draw attention to

Nelson, taking his first look at Sunningdale's Old course, had a round of 69 on Tuesday, one under par. In spite of the aura that surrounds a US Open Champion, Nelson still has a point to prove. He has done little else of note this year and one looks for a sign that his victory at Oakmont was something more than a flash in

the pan, touched off by a red-hot

putter. Faldo did 67 yesterday which advances his claims rather more than Ballesteros' 68. Yields are consequently beginning to fall for all types of property investment, with demand being fuelled by the resurgence of the syndicated investor. Jim O'Brien, who is Coldwell Banker's London vice-president, believes the US Syndicates, often made up of doctors, dentists and lawyers - are already replacing foreign investors in the market.

According to the Wall Street Journal recently: "Syndicators will buy \$20 billion worth of US real estate this year. In many cases paying more than top dollar." As for an example of how "hot" the syndicated investment market has become, and how far they are prepared to push down yields, Mr O'Brien says his firm has recently sold a 523m office building in west Los Angeles to a syndicate at the equivalent of 7 per cent yield.

Of course, a big attraction for these groups of relatively small investors are the tax shelters offered by property acquisitions. They can therefore afford to pay high prices. A typical example is that syndicators can get an institutional loan at around 18 per cent, with perhaps 8 per cent

accrued for five to 10 years. The investor gets a high tax write-off on the mortgage together with a nominal cash flow on his equity investment.

But, more importantly, this resurgence of the private investor syndicates underlines a more buoyant property market in the US. Over the past two years the market has been plagued by overbuilding which has led to high vacancy rates in many of the country's major office centres.

The early 1980s building boom is, however, sharply underlined

per cent. Manhattan is actually enjoying one of the nation's lowest vacancy rate with only 4.2 per cent of the stock under in the downtown area and 6.2 per cent in midtown.

But the construction boom of the early 1980s coupled with a decline in the economy is sharply underlined in some cities where vacancy rates have increased almost tenfold within a year. In June 1982 Denver's empty office accounted for only 2 per cent of the stock, now the figure is almost 20 per cent while in San Diego vacant space rocketed from 2.5 per cent last March to 27.3 per cent in December although it has now come down to just over 23 per cent.

Apart from one or two key centres investors and developers must carefully examine local conditions to see whether there is likely to be a substantial take up of vacant accommodation. Like Britain there is no evidence of a real upturn in the economy which would suggest future growth in demand for offices.

Despite the rise of the US investing syndicate, there are still ample opportunities for UK investors to take advantage of the broad range of property, according to stockbrokers Quilter Goodison & Co.

In a review of British involvement in the North American

property market Quilter concludes: "North American property still offers many opportunities for the shrewd and active investor and, given the relatively dull outlook for UK Property, expert British property companies to add to their significant assets in the US and Canada."

There are still ample openings for UK investors because of the broad range

The brokers say that North American holdings now account for over 7 per cent of property companies' investment portfolios. But the firm recognises that US and Canada not only attract the large property development and investment groups, smaller companies looking for growth can also participate in substantial schemes which simply are not available here in the UK.

The size of the market in North America is illustrated, Quilter say, by the fact that in Los Angeles and Chicago alone there is well over 1,000m sq ft of warehouse and manufacturing space. And there are 80 cities with a population more than 500,000 compared to only seven in Britain.

TABLE TENNIS

Prean shows human frailties

From a Special Correspondent, Bridgetown, Barbados

Carl Prean, the 16-year-old from the Isle of Wight of often insular imperviousness to distraction, showed himself human in the World Cup, sponsored by Three Fives, early yesterday. Prean gained his second win in a row - he beat Robert Earl, the Barbadian-based in New York, 21-11, 21-9, 21-4 - but was obviously nervous in front of a crowd, holding for their marks that cost him the first game and more sweetly anxious moments than he wanted.

This brief lapse may have cost him more than that. A three-way split for two places in the quarter-finals now looks a distinct possibility in his group and then that last game could be vital. This, of course, assumes that Prean cannot pull off another major success today against the world No

12 Kim Ki Taek of South Korea, and assumptions like that about the boyishly eyed, bespectacled and boyish-looking England No 1 have already proved superficial.

Kim Ki Taek, however, nearly did the lad a large favour when he stood at match point against the world No 8 Jan-Ove Waldner, the player whom Prean had so sprightly saved a match point to win on Tuesday.

Another defeat and Waldner could not have qualified. To his credit he avoided that under the greatest possible pressure.

The Swede appeared to have saved the match point once when Kim returned serve off the table and then the umpire called a let, very late. There was a long delay while Waldner queried it with the official, towed down, walked around then

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET
County Championship (11.0 to 6.30)
CANCER: Gloucestershire v Worcestershire
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Worcestershire
BUTLERS: Tynemouth v Lancashire
LEEDS: Lancashire v Kent
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire
THE OVAL: Somersett v Hampshire
SCARborough: D & C Clarens XI v New Zealand
STOURPORT: 11.30-12.30
CHELMSFORD: England Young Cricketers v
Second XI Championship
CHESTERFIELD: Derbyshire v Yorkshire League
Chesterfield v Loughborough
KINGSTON: Glamorgan v Nottinghamshire
CONVENTRY: Warwickshire v Somerset

FOOTBALL
CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Sheffield Utd v Derby (7.0); Second division:
Chesterfield v Merton City (7.30);
FOOTBALL CORNERSTONE: Oxford Utd v
Preston (7.0)

RUGBY UNION
CLUB MATCHES: Liverpool v Bayonne;
Abingdon & Ampthill v Worcester;
Mars Cheltenham v Cheltenham Combination;
Gloucester v Stroud; Headington v Haltic;
Plymouth Albion v Public School Wanderers.

TABLE TENNIS

Draw advantage: High numbers best.

2.15 TEAL GUARANTEED STAKES (3-Y-O Rilles: 2897-7) (7 runners)

1 0001 BETSY (D) (St T Sykes) W Elsay 8-12
106 4 BECHAMEL (Shetl Mochim) L Currier 8-4
107 5 BIRDS (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
108 6 BLOOM (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
109 7 BONITA (D) (Shetl Mochim) R Whitaker 8-8
110 8 BREEZE (D) (Shetl Mochim) R Whitaker 8-8
111 9 BREEZE (D) (Shetl Mochim) R Whitaker 8-8
112 10 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
113 11 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
114 12 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
115 13 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
116 14 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
117 15 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
118 16 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
119 17 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
120 18 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
121 19 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
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123 21 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
124 22 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
125 23 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
126 24 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
127 25 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
128 26 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
129 27 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
130 28 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
131 29 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
132 30 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8
133 31 CLOUTERS (D) (Shetl Mochim) B Hobbs 8-8

1-3 Eye Dazzle, 7 Folgoat, 10 Misses Henry, 14 Sovereign Pearl, 25 others.

4.25 MALLARD STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,880; 1m) (13)

1 0002 EYE DAZZLER (D) (Miss C Alexander) W Henn 8-4
106 3 0003 ACORAS PRECISION (D) (Mrs J Sheppard) M Hayes 8-11
107 4 0004 BIRDS (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
108 5 0005 ROBERTS GIRL (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
109 6 0006 ROBERTS GIRL (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
110 7 0007 SEASIDE SPECIAL (D) (Mrs C Chapman) D Horne 8-11
111 8 0008 SOVEREIGN PEARL (D) (K Kurbitsch) Thomson Jones 8-11
112 9 0009 VALS SPECIAL (D) (Mrs C Chapman) D Horne 8-11
113 10 0010 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
114 11 0011 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
115 12 0012 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
116 13 0013 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
117 14 0014 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
118 15 0015 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
119 16 0016 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
120 17 0017 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
121 18 0018 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
122 19 0019 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
123 20 0020 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
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125 22 0022 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
126 23 0023 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
127 24 0024 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
128 25 0025 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
129 26 0026 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
130 27 0027 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
131 28 0028 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
132 29 0029 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8
133 30 0030 VINTAGE (D) (Shetl Mochim) G Whipple 8-8

1-4 Carrot, 11-2 Shear Height, 8 Seaweed Boy, 14 Atticus, 16 Champion's Day, Spicy Star Spray, 20 others.

3.15 GROUSE STAKES (23,210; 6f) (6)

1 0001 32191 GROUCREST (Lady Hartington) G Harwood 8-8
2 0002 32192 GROUCREST (Lady Hartington) G Harwood 8-8
3 0003 32193 GROUCREST (Lady Hartington) G Harwood 8-8
4 0004 32194 GROUCREST (Lady Hartington) G Harwood 8-8
5 0005 32195 GROUCREST (Lady Hartington) G Harwood 8-8
6 0006 32196 GROUCREST (Lady Hartington) G Harwood 8-8
7 0007 32197 GROUCREST (Lady Hartington) G Harwood 8-8
8 0008 32198 GROUCREST (Lady Hartington) G Harwood 8-8
9 0009 32199 GROUCREST (Lady Hartington) G Harwood 8-8
10 0010 32200 GROUCREST (Lady Hartington) G Harwood 8-8
11 0011 32201 GROUCREST (Lady Hartington) G Harwood 8-8
12 0012 32202 GROUCREST (Lady Hartington) G Harwood 8-8
13 0013 32203 GROUCREST (Lady Hartington) G Harwood 8-8
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61 0061 32251 GROUCREST (Lady Hartington) G Har

HORIZONS

The Times Guide to career development

Keeping the handshake golden

Godfrey Golzen with advice for managers facing redundancy

The angry reaction by Lord Fraser, potential bidder for the House of Fraser, to the news that Fraser chairman Professor Roland Smith had negotiated a two-year service contract which increased his salary to £80,000 a year, implied that such an arrangement was close to the controversial American practice of the "golden parachute". This is a way in which top executives in American companies, threatened by a takeover, soften what may be their eventual descent into the job market by organizing contracts for themselves beforehand which makes it extremely expensive to get rid of them. Lord Fraser contended that it would cost "about £800,000 to £1m" to dispense with the services of Professor Smith. It is rather hard to see how they arrived at that figure because, as the law stands, surprisingly, they would not necessarily even be obliged to honour his two year contract.

How much employers actually do have to pay out if they break a service contract which still has some years to run – five is the effective maximum under British company law – could cause an unpleasant surprise to those who might be tempted to count their golden handshake before it is offered. The courts take the view that a person who has lost his job must take reasonable steps to "mitigate" his or her loss by trying to find another, roughly equivalent, job as soon as possible. So, if it comes to litigation, the damage for breach of contract will be assessed on how long that process would take – the general view is 12 to

18 months. Furthermore, although golden handshakes are tax-free to the first £25,000 and liable to a reduced rate on the next £50,000, the compensation in that case is assessed on loss of salary net of tax at ordinary rates.

The figures suggested by Lord Fraser do, however, illustrate the confusion generally surrounding severance payments. Quite a large number of six figure settlements have been made at top levels; but where only minimal Service contracts are in operation – and a surprising number of managers are on contracts that have not been revised for years – not much more may be due than the statutory redundancy maximum of £4,200. This is clearly inadequate, and employers generally want to do the decent thing; the only problem is that standards of decency are not laid down, except in some union agreements. Several unions have negotiated job security deals: the Apex one, for instance, provides nine months notice for staff with over five years service, plus six weeks pay for every year up to a maximum of 78 weeks. If you are dealing with an employer who has no idea of how much he should be offering, the Apex agreement is worth quoting.

With managers, of course, the problem is that fringe benefits add as

much as a third to the real value of the salary and this fact ought to be taken into account in assessing the amount of the golden handshake. Ideally, fringe benefits ought to be written into the service contract, though in practice if you are with a company over a period of time, they tend to accumulate informally. This is something you ought to correct next time your contract comes up for renewal, whatever your current position. Having to replace your company car can make quite a dent in even a generous settlement.

The most permanently damaging aspect of losing your job and the one that is least taken into consideration when assessing compensation, is the loss of pension. It is extremely difficult to transfer from one "contracted out" scheme to another and this generally means that your pension from your present employer is frozen at its current value. Not only is this disproportionately low, but its purchasing power when you finally do collect on retirement will have been seriously eroded by even a low rate of inflation.

This is one very telling point to put to an employer in your negotiations and in assessing the real value of what you are being offered. It may not be as generous as it looks at first glance and for this reason the general advice is not to accept a severance offer without thinking about its full implications. In the end, of course, your negotiating position may not be a very strong one, but at that stage you can scarcely be sacked for overplaying your hand.

NEWSROUND

• A controversial campaign launched last month advocates that the black economy should be made legal, that every adult should be paid £5,000 a year regardless of having a job, and that the concept of "earning your living" should be banished forever.

The "Campaign for Real Work" is crystallized in a teaching pack, "Work-shuffle", which argues that whilst new technology will probably mean that 10 per cent of the population will ultimately support the country through their paid work, the remaining 90 per cent could be engaged in useful and necessary work not currently considered as legitimate employment. The campaign is the brainchild of Dr Barbara Hopson and Mike Scally, both lecturers of Leeds University and Lifeskills Associates, a new Leeds-based company. It has been launched to give school children a new attitude to work at a time when many will leave education without any immediate prospect of traditional paid employment.

Workshuffles is available from Lifeskills Associates, Ashing, Beck Church Lane, Adel, Leeds, price £12.55.

• Still on the subject of unemployment, the DHSS Freephone Information Service, which has been operating very successfully in Hampshire, Berkshire, the Isle of Wight and the Guildford area of Surrey is to be

extended to the remainder of Survey and the directory areas of North East Kent during mid-September. People wishing to use the service should call the operator and ask for Freephone 3412.

In addition, new services are now operating throughout the following regions: Stockton (dial 100 and ask for Freephone 5713); Newcastle (dial 100 and ask for Freephone 5368); Leeds and Sheffield (dial 100 and ask for Freephone 5110); Birmingham (021 directory area only – dial 100 and ask for Freephone DHSS).

All DHSS Freephone Information Services provide guidance and advice on the current range of social security benefits and the problems and procedures involved in claiming them.

• Job hunters who are persistently failing at the interview stage of their applications will welcome the second revised edition of Martin Higham's book, *Coping with Interviews*.

The text contains a highly personalized guide through the various stages of the interview process. The author, currently group recruitment manager for Rowntree Mackintosh draws on his extensive experience of interviewing school leavers, apprentices, clerks, supervisors, solicitors, engineers and accountants over a period of 30 years.

From the New Opportunity Press, 76 St James's Lane, London N10 3RD, price £3.50 plus 60p pcp.

lighted by the survey is the effective rate of tax and social security in each country. Britain has traditionally been thought a high tax area, but it now appears to have relatively low rates at the different management levels. French tax levels have increased substantially in the survey and the Swiss executive at the top level loses a higher proportion of his salary than his British counterpart. This is all cold comfort for the British executive however, as the executives of other countries surveyed received correspondingly higher gross salaries. In gross pay terms, the British executive has lost out by about 10 per cent over the past year, putting Britain at the bottom of the gross pay league.

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For further details and an application form (to be returned by 30 September 1983), write to Civil Service Commission, Alcester Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 3B, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 48531 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref G/6047.

Academic Director
Diplomatic Service
Language Centre

The Centre provides in-house tuition in central London in French, German, and Spanish for members of HM Diplomatic Service, employing nine full-time lecturers and a pool of part-time tutors, and arranges tuition in other (mainly non-European) languages at educational establishments in the UK and overseas. The person appointed to this newly-created post will advise on general language training policy, supervise its detailed implementation, assist in developing syllabuses and teaching and testing methods, supervise and tutor in teaching, and administer the Centre and its staff.

Candidates, normally aged between 35 and 35, must have a good honours degree or its equivalent in languages or linguistics, a first-class knowledge of one or more West European languages

in addition to English, and relevant teaching experience, preferably at the tertiary level. Knowledge of a non-European language or of linguistics, experience in TEFEL or audio-visual training techniques, and overseas work experience would be advantageous.

Starting salary will be between £16,790 and £18,700, according to qualifications and experience. The appointment will be for a period of 3 years initially with the possibility of its being extended or made permanent.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 30 September 1983), write to Civil Service Commission, Alcester Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 3B, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 48531 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref G/6047.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BRITISH CERAMIC MANUFACTURERS FEDERATION

North Staffordshire c.£20,000 + car

As a result of impending retirement, the BCMF, which represents the interests of the ceramic industry, is seeking a Chief Executive accountable to the elected officers.

Responsibility will include industrial relations, representation of the industry at all levels including governments, EEC and competitive industry overseas, the provision of advice to members and efficient administration.

Executive experience in manufacturing including a significant industrial relations content is required, ideally accompanied by experience with an employers' association. Knowledge of the ceramic industry would be an advantage as would linguistic ability. Age 35-38.

There are additional benefits including help with relocation expenses if appropriate.

Please send a fully detailed application prior to 16th September to:

The President, British Ceramic Manufacturers Federation, P.O. Box 354, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 7AA.

TECHNICAL EDITOR
FRENCH LANGUAGE

We are looking for a technical editor to work with a major multinational company, world leader in air conditioning & refrigeration, in a team at its company's European headquarters in London. The post will involve writing copy for brochures, leaflets, newsletters and promotional publications for the French market. The work will include responsibility for identification & control of translation sources, editing, proofreading, layout and design. Essential: fluent French and you have degree-level education and experience in editing (preferably with an engineering background). Some travel will be required. Starting salary will be negotiable around £20,000.

Please send personal & career details in confidence to: Head of Publication Department, Carlyle Airconditioning Co. Ltd., 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB. Tel: 01-589 8111 ext 243.

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SALES AND MARKETING APPOINTMENTS

MARKETING
EXECUTIVE

International security consultancy requires Marketing Executive.

Age 30-40. Previous marketing experience, sales and a European language essential.

Salary negotiable. Send CV and salary required to Box No 1177

H The Times.

NON-SECRETARIAL

RHANNY AGENCY (part-time) seeks senior efficient and organized secretaries for our clients in London, Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Scotland, Ireland, etc. Tel: 01-589 8111 ext 243.

RALES EXECUTIVE: £6,500 + commission. Our client, a busy construction company, needs an experienced person with a good knowledge of major documentation to join their London office.

ARE YOU SDOB IN THE OFFICE? SW1. Data Entry Agent needed - no overtime £20,000 pa. Tel: 01-222-1158.

SALES TIME VACANCIES

PART TIME Accountant/Salesperson required for commercial property management in the west. Tel: 01-589 8111 ext 243. C/o: 1 New Bond St, W1.

NON-SECRETARIAL

RESEARCH ASSISTANT £5,500 to £6,500 per annum. To assist in research and analysis of market trends. You should be computer literate, have a good telephone and writing ability. Send CV and salary required to Box No 1177

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PART-TIME Accountant/Salesperson required for commercial property management in the west. Tel: 01-589 8111 ext 243. C/o: 1 New Bond St, W1.

RECEPTIONIST

PROPERTY TO £6,500

A small company in Mayfair with a very friendly staff, needs someone to assist visitors to their attractive offices and deal with general office administration. Excellent prospects for promotion. Send CV and salary required to Box No 1177

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RECEPTIONIST FOR ARCHITECTURE

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Architectural practice in Mayfair, London, requires a Receptionist for their office. Salary £6,500 per annum.

Send CV and salary required to Box No 1177

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ART DEALERS IN ST JAMES'S

requires efficient shorthand secretary for their office in St James's.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Daville

BBC 1

3.00 **Ceefax AM:** News in brief, and sport, weather and traffic. Information available to you whether you have teletext facility or not.

3.30 **Breakfast Time:** With Sue Cook and Frank Bough. Includes news bulletins at 6.30, 7.05, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; Sport at 6.45; "Tonight's television" at 8.30; Chris Tarrant in *After You've Gone*; Maid Lizzie, at 8.45; Ruth on the Road with Kevin the Gardener, at 9.00; Morning papers (7.32 and 8.32); Breakfast Time doctor (8.38-9.00).

3.00 **Scrooge Do Where Are You?**: cartoon: 9.25 Hay Look... There's the Isle of Wight TV station for youngsters. *Hang-gliding* name: 9.35 *Rocky Mountain*: Ann Murray's return from Ann Philp's *The Multiplying Glass*; 10.00 *With the Help*: Kenneth Williams supplies the voices (r); 10.45 *Tales from the Dark*; 10.55 *Closeup*.

1.00 **News After Noon**: with Fern Britton and Richard Whiteman; 1.27 *Financial Report*. And, sub-titled news: 1.30 *Bagspace*: for the very young.

1.45 **The New Foresters**: Interviews in the New Forest, with the self-taught painter Monica Coleman, and the thatcher Ronald Hayward who is keeping the old family trade going through his son it was started by his great grandfather.

1.15 **Film: The Long Arm (1956)**: Scotland Yard thriller, with Jack Hawkins as the detective on the trail of a gang of slate robbers. With John Saxon; Dorothy Alison, Michael Brooke and Geoffrey Keen. Directed by Charles French.

1.50 **The Flying Doctor**: Second of three films about the planes that were as much at home on the sea as in the air. Today, the flying boats go to war. With David Lomax.

1.30 **Play School**: the story of Ida-Jack (see BBC 2, 10.30 am); 4.45 *Heidi*, episode 22 of this 26-part serialisation of the children's classic (r).

1.05 **John Craven's Newsround**: 5.10 *Charlie Brown*: animated version of the cartoon strip; 5.35 *The Perishers*: with Leonard Rossiter (r).

1.00 **South East at Six**: 1.25 *Doctor Who*: Part two of *Black Orchid*, with Peter Davison and Barbara Murray (r).

1.30 **The Wonderful World of Disney**: part two of *Donovan's Kid*, a drama about a con-man who wants to reclaim his wife and child. With Darren McGavin and Mickey Rooney.

1.40 **Top of the Pops**: live. With John Peel and David Jensen.

1.10 **Fame: More about the Broadway and youngstars**: LaRoy and Caro are back with Lydia into competing a church basketball team in the game clashes with the school's alumni production.

1.00 **News**: with Nicholas Witchell. *The Life and Times* of David Lloyd George; final episode of Elaine Morgan's serial about the "Welsh widow". Tonight, he looks back but goes back into his past. He makes a speech that helps to depose Chamberlain in favour of Churchill as war leader. With Philip Madoc and Kit Marshall (r).

0.40 **Secrets: Two examples of Britain's 80 laws with clauses that prevent officials giving information to the public**. With Ed Bower (see photo), 11.15 *News*.

1.15 **Smiles: The Man and his Music**: The veteran singer's guests are Carol Both and his band (r); 12.05 *Weather* forecast.

TV-am

6.25 **Good Morning Britain**: with Nick Owen and Anna Dianova. Includes news at 6.30, 7.05, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; Sport at 8.15; *Steaming* (between 8.30 and 7.00); *Keeping Fit* (6.45-7.00); *Nightly TV* (7.15-7.30); *Morning papers* (7.32 and 8.32); *Breakfast Time* doctor (8.38-9.00).

6.30 **Thames news headlines**: Followed by *Sesame Street* with the Muppets; 7.15 *Science International*: scientific research film; 10.35 *Struggle Beneath the Sea*: The octopus, in its natural environment; 11.20 *History of the Motor Car Post-war*: upsurge in the European car industry (r); 11.25 *The Farmer Who Became a Housewife*: cartoon (r); 17.35 *Practise*: South Coast holiday centre (r).

12.05 **Hegerty Haggard** with George Cole; 12.00 *Get up and Go!* with Beryl Reid; 12.30 *The Sullivans*: Australian family serial.

1.00 **News**: 1.20 *Thames area news*; 1.30 *Espresso Farm* (r).

2.00 **A Plus: Healing and healing**. Those interviewed included David Harvey, author of the recently published book *Healing Power*; 2.30 *Racing from York*: We see the 2.35, 3.10 and 3.40.

4.00 **Children's ITV**: *Hegerty Haggard*; 4.15 *Bugs Bunny*; 4.20 *On Safari*; "Jungle" fun with Roy Keen and Christopher Biggins (r); 4.45 *Home*: Australian drama serial; 5.15 *Young Doctors*: Hospital serial.

5.45 **News**: 6.00 *Thames area news*.

6.30 **What It's Worth**: Consumers' letters answered. With John McVride.

6.40 **Thames Sport**: Live from Sunningdale, venue for the European Golf Open. Plus general sports round-up and a preview of the Keith Wallace v Juan Diaz freight battle in London tonight.

7.10 **I Simply Can't See**: A film about a Gallipoli veteran, Joe Murray, now 86, living alone, with failing sight, and fiercely determined to retain his independence.

7.40 **Film: The Ghost of Flight 401 (1977)**: Made-for-TV thriller about a pilot's haunting experience after his jumbo jet crashes into the Florida Everglades. Apparently based on fact. With Ernest Borgnine, Gary Lockwood and Kim Basinger.

9.30 **Europeana Conversations**: France, Strasbourg - Jean-Pierre Peintre, A film about a French-born woman, now lecturing in English at the University of Strasbourg, in Alsace, and married to a French-speaking teacher. In addition to reconciling British and French cultures, she has to cope with the traditions and culture of Alsace, which has its own language.

10.00 **News**: And *Thames news headlines*.

10.30 **Edgar Wallace Presents**: *Death at Midnights* (1953). Modestly made British thriller about a drug addict and former surgeon (Mervyn Miller) who, while waiting in an all-night chemist's shop, recognises a former Nazi (Anton Diffring). Also starring William Sylvester. Directed by Norman Harrison.

12.25 **Night Thoughts**: with the Rev Bill Todd. His theme is *Second Sight*. Ends at 12.45.

Tom Bell (left) and Bryan Marshall in *Out* (Channel 4, 9.30pm)**BBC 2**

6.05 **Open University** (ends at 8.10) Maths: 8.30 *Conflict in the Family*; 8.55 *Social Primate*: good timing; 9.20 *Meeting of Kindness*; 9.45 *Classical Greek Social Life*.

10.30 **Play School**: same as BBC 1, 4.20; *Closedown* at 10.35.

5.00 **Resources for Learning**: Open University film about Avon teachers who have to cope with classes made up of pupils of widely differing abilities.

5.40 *F.A.C.T.S.*: Third film in this series showing how amateur footballers can improve their game. Today: shooting. With Kevin Keegan, Terry Venables, and other experts (r).

6.05 **Distant Game**: Penultimate film in this series about Britain in uniform. Tonight, the story of HMS Amethyst, the British frigate that made a famous dash for freedom up the Yangtze river when China was in the grip of civil war in 1949 (r).

6.55 **News**: with subtitles.

7.00 **Open Space**: Community programme unit film called *Ducking the Rocks* - a Social Worker's Life. Filmed in South Wales (see Choice).

7.30 **Comment**: with Sir Roy Shaw, former Secretary-General of the Arts Council.

8.00 **Doctors**: An account of a woman doctor's campaign to prevent the serious illnesses that have plagued the Ayamara Indians who live at high altitude in Bolivia. Her name is Ruth Tschauer.

8.30 **Radio 4**: Lunatic entertainment featuring the Tates and Campbell families. Tonight, there is much consternation in the courtroom on the first day of her murder trial. And Elaine decides to marry Danny.

9.30 **Dust**: Penultimate episode in this drama series about India today. Tonight, a land reform project in West Bengal, one of the few such projects in the country. We see its effects on the lives of landless labourers and share-croppers and their families.

10.00 **Film: Henry and Tonto (1974)**: Comedy, trimmed with drama, about an elderly widower (Art Carney) and his cat who, when they are evicted from their New York apartment, start a long trek across the United States. The cast also includes Ellen Burstyn, Chita Rivera, George and Larry Hagman. Directed by Paul Mazursky.

10.30 **Edinburgh International Festival**: A big show, from Princess Street Gardens. A fireworks display provides the visual climax to the Scottish Chamber Orchestra's performance of Handel's *Music for the Royal Fireworks*. The concert opens with the Trumpeters of the Royal Scots playing Trevor Sharp's *Fantasia for the Festival*. Nick Ross presents the programme.

10.30 **Comment**: Highlights of last Easter's International Festival of Country Music at Wembley Arena. Entertainers include Linda Cassidy, The Burrito Brothers, Bill Walker and the 30 Seconds.

11.00 **News**: *Open University*: Images (seeing with sound); 12.15 *The Public Inquiry* (the M40 extension between Oxford and Warwick). Ends at 11.45.

11.30 **What the Papers Say**: with Stephen Pile of *The Sunday Times*. Ends at 11.45.

CHANNEL 4

● **Channel 4**, among other things a testing ground for specialist programme makers, may sometimes give the impression that "what it caters to minority groups."

OPEN STUDIO (BBC 2, 7.00pm)

serves as a reminder that the BBC's Community Programme Unit has been doing a similar sort of thing for years, holding up a mirror to our society, reflecting the ups and downs of aspiration and fulfilment. Its vocabulary is that of the intelligent laymen, and therefore its approach to documentary on life in the closing decades of the twentieth century cannot be overestimated. Tonight's *Open Spaces* film, *Ducking the Rocks*, adopts the same non-sense approach we have come to expect of the series. The subject is social work in South Wales, particularly the Swansea and Port Talbot areas. Open any local

CHOICE

authority's files for any three successive days and the odds are that, with slight variations, the case histories will be precisely those we learn about tonight - the lonely elderly, confined to their homes; the elderly found wandering on local beaches at night; the young youngsters who see the social worker as "the guy who is about to take them away from their mothers and therefore pat him with stones". And - not at the everyday level - the front doors that open to reveal a hoarder, a housewife who, once a belle of the chiselers, has become amateur graverawd in pollution, complete with expensive equipment and leg-boots, before the local council returns to talk tact. Presenters' interviews Ed Boyle ensure detectable high levels of irony.

● **SECRETS** (BBC 1, 10.40pm) is both an example of BBC-originated

campaigning journalism and the next best thing, a revamping of someone else's. It makes no secret of the latter, and *Panorama* and *The Guardian* duly take their bow in the second half of tonight's double-bill which deals with a report on alcohol and health, prepared by the Government's "think-tank" in 1978 and kept deep-freeze by Whitehall ever since though available in local libraries thanks to the tank's springing a leak. Official papers remain sealed, however, in tonight's other story, that of a giant chemical plant in Yorkshire and of the farming couple who, in an uninterrupted view of belching chimneys who, for once, have become amateur graverawd in pollution, complete with expensive equipment and leg-boots, before the local council returns to talk tact. Presenters' interviews Ed Boyle ensure detectable high levels of irony.

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TONIGHT'S PROM

7.30 **Beethoven**: Piano Concerto No. 5 E flat major (the Emperor). Soloist: Emanuel Ax.

8.30 **Berlioz**: Symphony fantastique. London Symphony Orchestra, under Claudio Abbado. Radio 3 Stereo.

9.05 **This Week's Composer**:

Beethoven. Alfred Brendel plays the Piano Sonata in C minor, Op. 13 (Pathétique), and joins the Beaux Arts Trio for the Piano Trio in G, Op. 1, No. 2. Records, City of London Sinfonia Concert Band.

10.00 **10.00**: *Concert Prelude*, including 8.00 Sports Desk.

10.45 **5.30**: *Sport* (including 8.45 Sport and Classified Results (medium wave only).

11.00 **11.00**: *Round Midnight* at the Edinburgh Festival. 12.00 Brian Mathew presents *Round Midnight* at the Edinburgh Festival. 1.00 Robert White Sings. 1.30 *The Organic Ensemble*. 2.00 Peter Dickinson presents *You and the Night and the Music*?

11.15 **News**: Ends at 11.15. VHF ONLY - OPEN UNIVERSITY: 8.35-8.55am and 11.20pm-12.00am.

Radio 2

Day to apologize to Foot over confidence slip

Sir Robin Day, the broadcaster, said last night that he was writing to Mr Michael Foot to apologize for breaking a confidence in a sudden outburst during a debate with Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, at the Edinburgh international television festival.

Sir Robin said that Mr Foot had told him he believed Mrs Thatcher had no alternative to sinking the Argentine battleship, the Belgrano.

The admission stunned the audience of broadcasters and journalists, which included Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, Mr Roy Hattersley, and Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Transport, as chief guests.

Mr Hattersley immediately asked Sir Robin where and when Mr Foot had made the remark, and if it was made in private. Sir Robin said that it was and Mr Hattersley retorted: "I won't have a private conversation with you again!"

The broadcaster replied: "I know we would not get through the afternoon without you making a cheap remark."

Mr Dalyell had asked during the festival's debate on television's general election coverage why he had not questioned Mrs Thatcher on the sinking of the Belgrano. Sir Robin said that both he and television editors did not think that the sinking was an election issue.

When Mr Dalyell took up the subject again, Sir Robin rounded on him and shouted: "Mr Foot did not think that Mrs Thatcher had any alternative to sinking the Belgrano." He said it was not an election issue, and that he did not think that it was sinking when I interviewed him."

As Mr Hattersley left the debate early to catch a train to another function he said that Sir Robin's remark had been a breach of confidence.

David Steel back on duty

Mr David Steel the Liberal leader returned to duty yesterday for the first time since the start of his 10 weeks sabbatical.

He appeared in a debate on television coverage of the General Election. "I am feeling fantastic and looking forward to coming back. I am enjoying the rest. I would recommend it to anybody. It makes a lot of sense after seven years as leader to take a break."

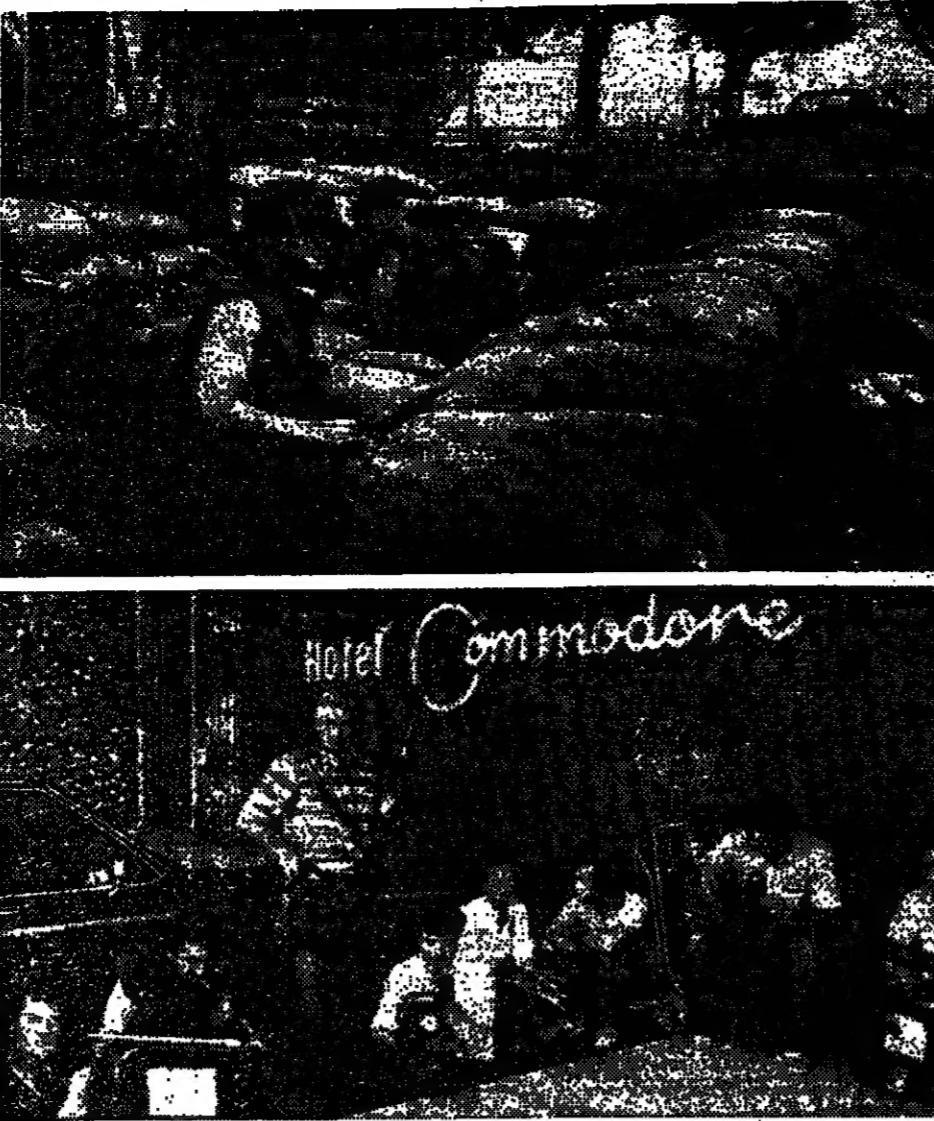
Mr Steel, who was said by his doctor to be suffering from a virus infection, said he would not make any political statements before the Liberal assembly at Harrogate on September 19. He appeared

confident and at ease throughout the engagement, part of the Edinburgh Television Festival.

He said he had accepted the invitation to appear as a panelist with Mr Roy Hattersley and Mr Tom King, Transport Secretary, some time ago because it was not a political occasion.

"If I had been asked, for example, to appear on Panorama with Mr Hattersley and Mr King, the answer would have been negative."

He said that at no time during his break had he been tempted to answer criticisms of his leadership from factions within the party.



Front-line Beirut: US Marines in a fox hole and TV crews trapped in a hotel with, right, Lebanese troops loading a helicopter with arms

Lebanon drifts to civil war

Continued from page 1

one of the few respected Muslim elder statesmen in the country - he represented Lebanon in talks with President Reagan earlier this year - condemned the Muslim militia and stood up for the Government.

Beirut itself is now in a state of near civil war and Mr Gemayel must be wondering how long he can remain president of a country

Fish's report was again interrupted:

got to go now as bullets going up street outside window. Back soon as I can all received OK so far pls?

Whether at this late stage his words will be respected can only be a matter of conjecture. But with the Lebanese Army still unable to control even their own capital, their chances of being able to advance into the Chouf mountains and pacify the Druze militia there now appear to be almost non-existent.

Israeli troops had already begun their withdrawal from the hills, pulling out positions around the town of Aley when the Israelis briefly suspended their withdrawal at America's request. How

whose capital he can only control by sending his troops into action against muslim militias. The multinational force is now under fire every day - a barrage of 155-millimetre shells, probably fired from Syrian-controlled areas, yesterday landed in the Italian army's logistics compound, wounding four Italian soldiers - and Mr Reagan will soon have to decide whether to increase the number of US marines here or abandon Mr Gemayel altogether.

The next few days - some would say the next forty-eight hours - are likely to prove whether Lebanon is to survive as a state.

Fish's sign-off message read: Lebanese Army has now passed the office here but snipers still around. Will try and update during evening but things very difficult and cannot even cross road outside at present. Bombardment now over, though.

Counting the cost, page 7

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